HUNTER TRAVEL GUIDES

HOLLYWOOD
& THE BEST OF
LOS ANGELES

ALIVE!

SHOPPING HOTELS RESTAURANTS
NIGHTTIME ENTERTAINMENT DAYTIME FUN

Robert & Phyllis White

HOLLYWOOD
& the best of
LOS ANGELES
ALIVE!

Robert & Phyllis White

HUNTER

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Preface

Greetings from Hollywood! Wish you were here!

Well, actually, greetings from Acton. I don't quite understand someone's desire to "see stars," but you can see me at the Shambala Preserve one weekend each month. Just call and make a reservation for a special, one-of-a-kind "safari." No, we don't have a barn full of old birds, but we do have over 50 endangered big cats, and an African elephant to keep you amused.

I came back to Los Angeles to test for the lead in *The Birds*. The year escapes me... I couldn't imagine then what I was about to get into, but it's all Hollywood history now. It was the movies, in fact, that led me down the path I have followed all the days since then. After working with Alfred Hitchcock and Charlie Chaplin (and, yes, ladies, Rod Taylor, Sean Connery and Marlon Brando. How's that for name dropping?), I made a movie in Africa that explored the endangered future of the beautiful and majestic wild animal residents of that massive and proud continent. Not long after, we began a movie project of our own that led to the founding of Shambala Preserve. That was nearly 30 years ago!

But I'm supposed to write something about "seeing stars" in Los Angeles. I can't imagine what I can add to this well researched volume of Hollywood tidbits, though I do recall many years ago running into Ida Lupino and her husband Howard Duff shopping in an all-night market. They were glamorously dressed, obviously on the way home after one of those legendary Hollywood parties. They were feeling no pain, and pushed a shopping cart up and down aisles, loudly arguing about what the other was tossing into the cart. But I digress.

This book is fun. It reads especially well with a tub of buttery popcorn and a box of Good & Plenty. I read with interest that there are over 60,000 actors living in Los Angeles. How disconcerting. No wonder I can't get a job. Which reminds me... if you really want to see stars, go to the Hollywood unemployment office. And get in line. Music swells. Lights fade. THE END.

With love for the Wild Ones...

Tippi Hedren

About the Authors

Phyllis and Robert White have lived in Los Angeles most of their lives. Robert spent much of his childhood here, and went to Hollywood High and Los Angeles City College. He started writing scripts for the networks while at LACC. Phyllis, after attending the University of Minnesota and working for CBS in New York for several years, also ended up in Hollywood. As a couple they worked at most of the studios, writing many prime-time television shows as well as daytime soaps. They know the movie business and many of the people who work in it, and in Hollywood, from the inside.

These days, Phyllis and Robert write about travel. They have written feature articles for the travel sections of several dozen newspapers and magazines. Their previous book for Hunter Publishing was *Romantic Weekends: San Francisco and the Bay Area*. They presently live in Venice, a beach community 10 miles west of Hollywood.

About the Alive Guides

Reliable, detailed and personally researched by knowledgeable authors, the *Alive!* series was founded by Harriet and Arnold Greenberg.

This accomplished travel-writing team also operates a renowned bookstore, **The Complete Traveller**, at 199 Madison Avenue in New York City.

We Love to Get Mail

This book has been carefully researched to bring you current, accurate information. But no place is unchanging. We welcome your comments for future editions. Please write us at *Alive Guides*, c/o Hunter Publishing, 130 Campus Drive, Edison, NJ 08818, or e-mail your comments to comments@hunterpublishing.com. Due to the volume of mail we receive, we regret that we cannot personally reply to each letter or message, but your comments are greatly appreciated and will be read.

Acknowledgments

Writing a book like this is great fun; at least, if your passion in life is writing, it is. But the facts to be checked, and the half-remembered stories to be double-checked and the research to be done would make it a never-ending job if there weren't so many people willing to lend a hand.

We can't thank everyone we talked to, or who called us back with more information or sent us a clipping; that would take another book this size. But we would like to mention John Duel at the LA Convention & Visitors Bureau, and our screenwriter friends who made suggestions about individual chapters relating to their communities. We have special appreciation for the staff of the Marina del Rey Public Library, who were, once again, incredibly patient over a period of months as they located obscure research material for us. And, of course, Lorry King and Anne White, our Internet mentors.

Dedication

To Ray Walston and our days on *My Favorite Martian*, belatedly.

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Introduction

Life is never quite interesting enough, somehow. You people who come to the movies know that.

– Shirley Booth, *The Matchmaker*

When you come to Hollywood, of course you would like to see television and movie stars. The footprints at Grauman's Chinese Theatre and the rides at Universal Studios are well and good, and as close as most visitors get to show biz, but they are not going to reveal any actual celebrities in the flesh. Yet seeing stars is, with a little bit of luck, perfectly possible.

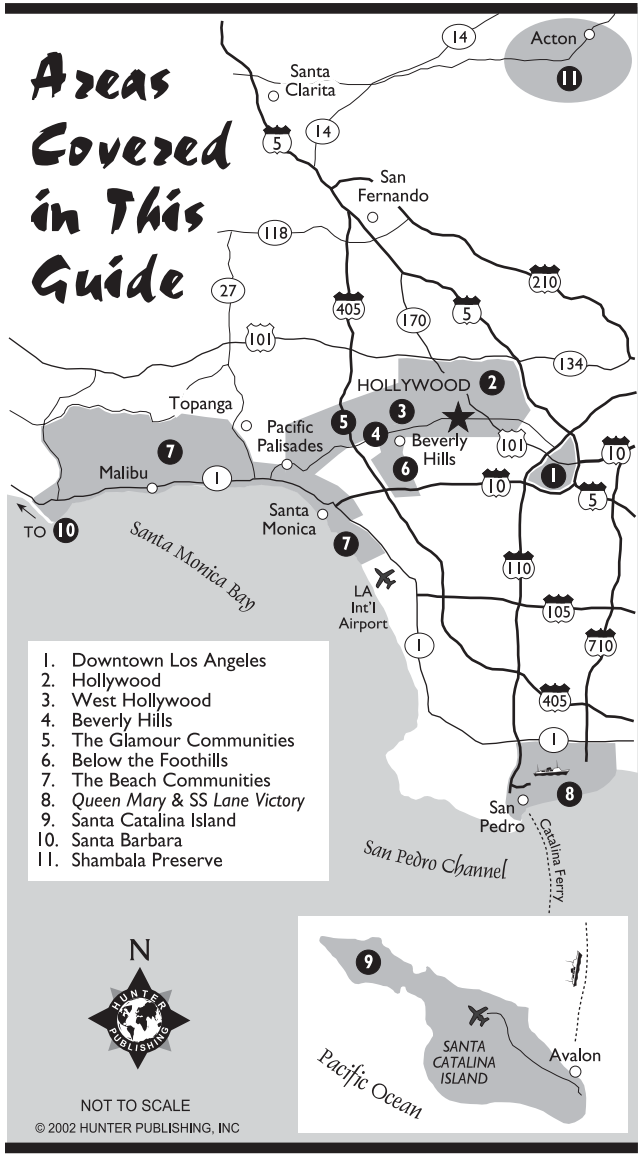
Hollywood is as much a state of mind as it is a geographic entity.

This book first took shape in our minds a few years ago, when we were working at the studios and, every once in a while, greeting friends and relatives from out of town. It almost always turned out that what they wanted to see and do was connected with Hollywood. Did we know any actors we could introduce them to? Could they tour a studio? Was there a movie they could see being shot?

It was easy for us to accommodate them. Bob grew up here, with time out spent elsewhere. His paper route, when he was a kid, started at the home of Billie Burke ("Glinda, the Good Witch," in *The Wizard of Oz*) and ended at that of silver screen siren Linda Darnell. He went to Hollywood High, and started selling scripts to the networks when he was at Los Angeles City College. Phyllis also ended up in Hollywood, writing scripts for the studios, after enduring Minnesota's winters while at the University of Minneapolis, then working at WBBN in Chicago, followed by a stretch at CBS in New York. One thing led to another, as it often does.

We soon realized that everyone who comes here from somewhere else feels the same way as those friends and relatives. While we can't drive each of you past the guard at the studio gate, we can tell you how to do it yourselves.

When those actors who live somewhere else return for a meeting at a studio or to attend the Academy Awards ceremony they tend to stay at one of a handful of hotels. The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SANTA CATALINA ISLAND
Avalon
Pacific Ocean

idea is to stay at the same place yourself, or perhaps at least to have lunch or dinner there.

The same goes for restaurants and shopping. While new places to dine constantly appear, are hot for a while and then fade away, there are certain restaurants where the high-profile folk have been eating for years. You might splurge on at least one meal. Going shopping? You are not likely to see many celebrities at Kmart, but we will tell you where they do go.

How To Use This Book

If the name of a hotel is preceded by two stars, as in ★★ Chateau Marmont, You know it is the kind of place where you just might bump into a well-known actor in the elevator; if it has one star, like ★ Hollywood Roosevelt, you won't see any celebrities there, but it means the place has so much movie history it's well worth seeing, or even staying there yourself. If it is starless it is simply recommended as a place to stay, usually because it is handy to other things you will want to see, or to public transportation.

The same goes for restaurants, as in ★★ Patina for celebrity-watching, ★ Formosa for the good old days, and Alejo's for good food, moderately priced.

In many of the hotel and restaurant listings we mention the names of stars that we know have been seen there. Some places, however, are very protective of their celebrity guests' privacy and ask us not to use names. We respect that and do not list them, unless the names have already been mentioned in some other printed source.

The book is organized primarily by area; it covers *Downtown Los Angeles*, *Hollywood*, *West Hollywood*, *Beverly Hills*, *The Glamour Communities*, *Below the Foothills*, *The Beach Communities*, and *Day-Trips*; there is a map in each section keyed to the points of interest we mention.

If you would like to see the process of filming television shows and movies you will find out how to do that in the chapter titled *The Movies & More*, under *Going on Location* (page 547) and *TV Show Tickets* (page 549).

Several studios have tours you can join, most of them surprisingly inexpensive. A few are really very informative and provide good chances to run into working actors as you explore the studios. You will find this information in the *Studio Tours* section (page 543).

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

People who work in films and television say we work in "the industry." All those who do not work in the industry are called "civilians."

It is possible for non-film people to attend most film festivals and some awards ceremonies as guests; at others you have to stand outside to see the stars as they arrive. These events are all listed under *Film Festivals* (see page 557), with the needed information and contact numbers.

The section on *Where Stars Are Buried* (page 566) lists cemeteries where you can find graves of famous stars. There are even tours available.

Meeting the Stars

Finally, we want to talk about what to do when you find yourself in the company of a star. Years ago a friend Phyllis had gone to college with came into town with a gaggle of small Brownies in tow. We were working at Universal Studios at the time and arranged to do our part by showing the kids around the lot, ending with lunch at the executive commissary. But before we went in to the dining room we told them, "The actors eat here so they won't be bothered. Don't ask them for their autographs or tell them how much you like their movies. Promise?" Eight or 10 small heads nodded solemnly. We took them inside, led the way to a large table, looked around – no one was following us. All the Brownies were standing in a small crowd next to a table where Gene Barry (of *Bat Masterson* and *Burke's Law* fame) was sitting. As promised, they weren't asking for his autograph or saying a word, but all those big, round eyes silently watched every bite he took.

Sometimes, and in some places, it is appropriate to ask for an autograph, but we suggest that if you are in a restaurant and see your favorite star, remember that he or she is there expecting to eat in peace. Other than that, if you have a few days to spend here and really want to see stars, don't worry, you probably will.

Universal Studios' Etiquette Tips on Meeting a Celebrity

- Don't interrupt a celebrity who is eating. The worst time to approach a star to talk to or take a photo of them is when they have food in their mouths.
- Adrienne Barbeau recalls the time she and a friend were having lunch in a restaurant and a stranger simply pulled up a chair and sat down as if to join them. Wait until, and if, you are asked.
- Stars are protective of their children. Do not try to engage their kids in any way. Do not touch a celebrity's child. Think how you would feel if strangers went after your kids. Photograph a celebrity's children only with permission (but do not expect to get it).
- Do not imitate their characters for them. Even if you just know they'll think it's funny or clever.
- Do not ask them if their hair, good looks or jewels are fake or borrowed.
- Don't say, "You were my favorite star when I was a very young child."
- Do not ask for home address or phone numbers, and don't supply yours unless you are asked.
- Do not ask them how much money they are making. This is always bad form, but it is a complete conversation-stopper with a celebrity.

- Do not comment on the size or shape of their physical features. How would you like it? This is not just a famous icon; this is, after all, a human being.
- Do not ask whom they are dating. Similarly, do not ask about the latest gossip, which can be one of the worst things in a celebrity's life. To you it is just intrigue; to them it is often painful and embarrassing.

FILM GLOSSARY

Negative Pickup – A contract with a major studio that guarantees to distribute a movie to be produced by an independent company; the deal based on the cost of completing the picture and producing a negative. The contract is used as collateral for the producer to borrow production funds from a bank.

Geology & Geography

The Los Angeles County coastline, stretching from Malibu to Long Beach, is 76 miles long.

On a really clear day (don't smirk, we have some) you can see all the mountains that surround Los Angeles. With your back to the ocean, looking east, from left to right you'll see the Santa Monica Mountains; the higher Santa Susana Mountains behind them; and the San Gabriel Mountains with Mt. San Antonio their highest peak. The San Bernardino range is farther east; it's usually snow-capped from December to April and is a mecca for local skiers. San Gorgonio is the biggest, farthest peak in that range (with more snow that stays longer), flanking the San Gorgonio Pass to the desert; from there, the San Jacinto Range is to the south, with Palm Springs on the other side.

The Coastal Mountain Range runs northwest to southeast from Point Mugu, in Ventura County, past Malibu to Santa Monica, leaving the Pacific Coast Highway (Califor-

nia Route 1) squeezed between the steep slopes and the ocean. South of the mountains it is generally flat. But at the southern end of the Coastal range there is a spur that goes eastward. The south end of the range and the spur are locally called the Santa Monica Mountains. The easternmost portion, to their end at Los Feliz and the Los Angeles River, are the Hollywood Hills.

Present-day Los Angeles, of which Hollywood is a part, is many things. Within the city limits are beaches, deserts, canyons and mountains. From its northern border, the city extends 70 miles south, across a flood plain to San Pedro and the Port of Los Angeles. The altitude of the plain ranges from nine feet below sea level at Wilmington to 10,080 feet above sea level atop Mt. San Antonio. The San Fernando Valley is north of Los Angeles, behind and parallel to the Coastal Range, and is separated from Hollywood by the Hollywood Hills. The northwest side of the valley is walled in by the Santa Susana Mountains.

Hollywood is eight miles west of downtown Los Angeles and 12 miles east of the Pacific coast.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Happy thought for the day: most of the tens of thousands of buildings and homes on the alluvial soil south and southeast of downtown Los Angeles are built on the flood plain below the mountains. A little thing like that never stopped Los Angeles' land developers.

AN EYE-OPENING DRIVE

From its beginning at Cahuenga Boulevard (alongside the Hollywood Freeway in Cahuenga Pass), Mulholland Drive runs 43 miles west along the ridge of the mountains to their end at Point Mugu. A scenic drive nonpareil.

Los Angeles covers an area as large as Rhode Island.

DID YOU KNOW?

Which way is that? Directions are tricky in Los Angeles because the coast does not run north and south but, rather, northwest and southeast. But because most of us have in our minds that the Pacific Ocean is to the west, we have simplified directions by calling everything beyond the Hollywood Hills north and everything toward Santa Monica west.

History

Long Ago & Far Away

Rocks found here have been dated back 1.7 billion years. More recently, the land on which Los Angeles sits used to be in mainland Mexico. That was 25 million years ago, give or take a millennium, but that pesky San Andreas fault has been moving us north ever since. There was a time when the volcanoes were active. The geologists say the mountains rose about 15 million years ago, lifting up all this land, which used to be underwater.

Jump forward to practically modern times, a mere 10,000 years ago, to the Ice Age. The area around here was not the desert it is today (the desert is still here, merely hidden under all that cement), but had plenty of rain and was lush with tall trees, grasses and bushes. Perfect for the animals driven south by the ice: the mammoth, giant ground sloth, dire wolf, saber-toothed tiger and other things with big teeth and grumpy attitudes.

Brea *is a Spanish word meaning "tar."*

You can see them all at **La Brea Tar Pits** at Wilshire Boulevard east of La Brea Avenue: the pools of thick, sticky tar are covered with water; when the animals went to drink they were caught and entombed.

The First Settlers

The latest evidence indicates that the area's first settlers came across the Bering Strait around 15,000 years ago when there was a land bridge from Asia. The group that worked its way south and settled along the coast in Southern California were called the Chumash; they spoke the Shoshonean language. The indians who lived inland called themselves the Yang-na; they founded their main village, also called Yang-na, on the west side of the river, about where present-day Los Angeles is. They were later called the Gabrielenos by the Spanish.

🕮 HISTORIC NOTE

Juan Rodriquez Cabrillo began the recorded history of California when he landed at San Diego Bay in 1542.

The Europeans

The first Europeans to see the area were led by a Spanish army captain, Gaspar de Portolá, in 1769; they came by sea to San Diego and marched north. Because the priests with the expedition were Franciscans, they stopped and celebrated the jubilee of Our Lady of the Angels Church of Porciúncula, a small town in Italy. Then they camped on the banks of a river that Portolá named *El Río de Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles.*

Two years later, Father Junípero Serra arrived and founded Mission San Gabriel Arcangel a few miles east. And that was the end of the Indians' freedom and the beginning of their enslavement. Few Gabrielenos are alive today, and only a few thousand descendants of the Chumash are left.

California was owned by Spain until 1821, when the Mexicans revolted and threw out the Spaniards. Mexico secularized the Missions in 1833.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Present-day update: with luck, the remaining Chumash Indians will become millionaires – in California the Indian tribes are now the only ones legally allowed to open gambling casinos.

The Americans

Americans had been filtering into California throughout the Spanish and Mexican periods. Most of the ones who stuck around were deserters from ships that called here; a few, mostly trappers, made it overland. But they couldn't own land or do business if they weren't Catholic. Most converted to Catholicism, married beautiful daughters of rich *Californios* and ended up owning vast ranches. Oddly, in all of history, there is no record of an American marrying a poor or homely *California*.

In the 1840s Commodore Robert F. Stockton, with a couple of US Navy ships, landed Marines in San Pedro. Captain Archibald Gillespie was left in charge of the town of Los Angeles and the commodore sailed away. But the Angelenos chased the occupiers off in the Battle of the Old Woman's Gun. The local people had a four-pound brass field piece that had been hidden by an old woman during the American's invasion. It was ancient, but proved to be enough. But, in the 1847 Battle of Cahuenga Pass, Andrés Pico, a leader of the *Californios*, surrendered to John Charles Frémont, an American adventurer and freebooter who had been given a field appointment as a "major" in the US Navy. Los Angeles was American from then on.

You can visit Campo de Cahuenga in North Hollywood, where Frémont and Pico signed the peace treaty.

Men, and a few women, poured in from all over the world after gold was discovered in Northern California, but the newcomers were predominately Americans from the East. The *Californios*, who'd had little contact with the outside world, were used to a lush, easygoing life, where nothing was thought of spending huge amounts to throw a fiesta and inviting the families of surrounding ranches. Many

Americans, on the other hand, turned out to be hard-headed, practical and sharp in a business deal.

THE OAK OF THE GOLDEN DREAM

Gold was discovered just outside Los Angeles in 1842, six years before the famous find at Sutter's Mill up north. A ranchero named Francisco Lopéz was searching for stray horses in San Feliciano Cañon, a few miles from Newhall, north of the Mission San Fernando. He stopped in the shade of an oak tree to dig up some wild onions and saw shining golden flakes on the roots. Enough gold was found to send a quantity back to the mint in Philadelphia, but the lode itself was shallow. Everyone, though, knew the story of The Oak of the Golden Dream.

Over the next several decades, droughts caused a series of bad years, and owners of vast ranches found themselves needing money. In addition to their financial problems, squatters tried to claim the land for themselves, and the ranchers' land titles were being disputed by the newcomers in the American courts. Some of these titles went back more than a century but the boundaries were casually laid out: *"From the oak tree on the hill to the bend in the river... "* One way or another, by the turn of the century little of Los Angeles, or Southern California, remained in the original owners' hands.

The End of the 19th Century

When the Civil War started in 1861, the people of Los Angeles voted fairly solidly for the South, but the bulk of California's population was in the northern part of the state, which voted for the North. California remained loyal to the Union. After the war, local land developers advertised heavily in the East, with extravagant claims for the climate and the vast amounts of fruit the land would raise. When the transcontinental tracks laid by both the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fe railroads reached Los Angeles, a rate war dropped passenger fares from the

Los Angeles' population in 1881 was 11,183; nine years later it was 102,489.

Midwest from $125 to as low as $1. The area's population soared.

Oil was discovered. The land from around Azusa to Ontario became one vast vineyard. Beyond that, orange groves stretched all the way to Riverside. The motion picture business arrived in force in 1912.

Climate

The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.
– From the musical *My Fair Lady*

Air Quality

Local land developers have always relied on our climate to lure homesteaders. Millions of badly colored postcards have been mailed East, almost always with a picture of an orange grove in the foreground and a snow-capped mountain nearby. Another popular card featured a slender woman wearing a one-piece bathing suit and white bathing cap cavorting on a beach in the never-ending sunshine.

Someone joked that the haze was a combination of smoke and fog and called it smog.

Actually, the area really looked that way until World War II. After the war it all became just too big, too sprawling. There were too many cars, and too many oil refineries; there was a sort of haze in the air so you couldn't see the mountains. We thought at first it was just a temporary condition. But instead of going away it got worse.

The mountain ranges – the Santa Monica Mountains, Hollywood Hills and San Gabriel Mountains – create a basin around the flood plain. The ocean breeze blows inland all day long and pushes the auto fumes, ozone and particulates of soot and dust ahead of it and north into the San Fernando Valley (there is a natural pass where the Los Angeles River curves around Los Feliz). An inversion layer forms on top of the pollution and keeps the smog from blowing away until nightfall, when the wind direction reverses and blows it all out to sea.

The people who live on Catalina Island have been smirking as they sit there, 20 miles offshore, avoiding the whole mess.

For years there was a lot of talk and no action, but eventually the consequences had to be faced. Scrubbers are now required in smokestacks and catalytic converters in every automobile engine. Los Angeles has the toughest clean-air

regulations in the country, but even with that we have still had the worst air in the country year after year. Finally, it is getting better. There are more days when you can see the mountains. We're sorry to say the vineyards and orange groves are gone for good, but that slender woman's granddaughter is back on the beach, although her one-piece bathing suit has shrunk to barely a thong.

In general, the weather in the basin has the dry summer and moderate winter rainfall of a Mediterranean climate. The main complaint about the climate from those who move here from elsewhere is the lack of four distinct seasons. Most of the year it is sunny and warm, with gentle ocean breezes. There is fog along the coast in the spring, and lots of dry heat in summer.

Rainfall & Temperatures

You needn't worry too much about rain. California is prone to periods of drought that come in seven-year cycles (we are expecting one any year now). When you are here, instead of being handed an umbrella you are more likely to be told not to ask for a glass of water with your meal. The average annual rainfall is 15 inches, with an average of 34 rainy days each year.

Despite the monthly averages given below, Los Angeles almost always has at least three kinds of climate going on at the same time. In July it may be 82° in downtown Los Angeles, where the official temps are taken, but out at the beach there's a fog, and it is in the chilly 50s. Meanwhile, over the hills in the San Fernando Valley, the temperature may be headed toward 100°, and the hum of air conditioners is heard throughout the land. The annual average temperature is 66° F, with approximately 292 sunny or partly sunny days each year.

Local saying: Hollywood has only two kinds of weather – perfect and unusual.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES (HIGH/LOW)	
JANUARY	66° / 48° F
FEBRUARY	67° / 50° F
MARCH	69° / 51° F
APRIL	71° / 54° F
MAY	73° / 56° F
JUNE	77° / 60° F
JULY	82° / 63° F
AUGUST	83° / 64° F
SEPTEMBER	82° / 63° F
OCTOBER	78° / 59° F
NOVEMBER	73° / 53° F
DECEMBER	68° / 49° F

The Dreaded Santa Ana Wind

There used to be a certain period of the year when we would get Santa Ana winds, but since *El Niño* and *La Niña* have changed our weather patterns there is no predicting them. If you are watching the telly and the forecaster says there is an area of high pressure over the deserts to the northeast and a low pressure zone offshore, you will know what to expect.

The wind comes down across the Mojave Desert, raising the temperature of the already hot air, and speeds through the mountain passes into our basin. Everything gets very dry, the thermometer may rise 10° or so and the air becomes startlingly clear. If you are out at the beach you can see that all the smog has been pushed out to sea and is simply a dirty cloud on the horizon.

NOTABLE QUOTES

In his novel *Red Wind*, Raymond Chandler wrote a line that has been quoted often: "It was one of those hot dry Santa Anas that come down through the mountain passes... meek little wives feel the edge of the carving knife and study their husbands' necks."

Environment

When you fly into Los Angeles from the East, everything on the ground from about 40 miles out looks like a continuous carpet of houses and buildings. It is especially striking at night, when all the lights are on. Since we usually think of the environment in terms of nature, like forests and fields, it certainly doesn't look as if there is any of that left here.

Oddly, there is more nature and wildlife in Hollywood and the rest of Los Angeles than in any other major city in the country. A wide, excellent beach tens of miles long is our western border. Several mountain ranges have large untouched areas, covered with cactus and chaparral. Most of that stretches from Hollywood to Malibu.

Wildlife

One morning I shot an elephant in my pajamas. How he got in my pajamas I don't know.

– Groucho Marx, *Animal Crackers*

Friends who live in Whitely Heights, in the middle of Hollywood, recently saw a **deer** in their yard. A few years ago we were driving the San Diego Freeway with its usual eight-lane stream of fast, noisy traffic going in two directions over Sepulveda Pass and saw a small deer not 50 feet from the highway. Several times while driving in the hills on Mulholland Drive at night we have seen a big dog in the road ahead, not moving, staring steadily at us, and then realized it wasn't a dog, it was a **coyote**.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Coyotes have adapted exceedingly well to urban life. There are more of them in Hollywood than ever, as many a former owner of a cat or small dog can ruefully attest.

Anyone tramping about in Griffith Park, which is right next to Hollywood, or in Mandeville Canyon, with its multi-million-dollar mansions, should walk carefully and keep an eye out for **rattlesnakes** in the summer.

Birds

There are literally hundreds of species; some live here permanently, others stop over and stay for just the winter or summer. We have many varieties of **hummingbirds**. These tiny birds can hover in mid-air as they dip their long, slender beaks into a flower. The rubythroated hummingbird is fairly common. The loud birds that look like blue jays aren't; they are **scrub jays**. The little golf-ball-size birds you may see flitting from branch to branch in a eucalyptus tree are **titmice**; they are eating *lerp psyllids* (don't ask).

Hawks, which had disappeared from this region, have been saved from extinction by being raised in captivity and then relocated to nests on tall buildings throughout the area. Besides looking noble, they help thin out the pigeon over-population. Often, in the summer, one will see a flock of small, green **parrots** fluttering in a tree. If you think tropical parrots and parakeets are not indigenous to Hollywood, you're right. They have escaped from captivity and will live free for a while, but few survive the winter.

The small brown birds usually seen in flocks are not sparrows, but finches.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Mourning doves, so called for their sorrowful calls, are native and always come in pairs. The **pigeons** are nonnative. Foolish Abbot Kinney imported a flock from Venice, Italy, when he created Venice, California.

Plants

Most of what we see growing in yards and parks has been imported, like the rest of us. Even the **cacti** come from farther east, where it grows naturally on the northern extensions of the Sonoran Desert. What was here before Europeans brought in interlopers was **coastal sagebrush**, **fennel**, **wild buckwheat** and other like varieties that existed in this climate without cultivation.

The predominant coastal sage, a low to medium height, three to five foot, gray-green, aromatic shrub, is still found on undisturbed low-lying land and lower slopes. At higher elevations is the **chaparral**: darker, less aromatic and taller at five to 10 feet.

Butterflies used to be everywhere, attracted at first by native plants like the sallow green **milkweed** and **deer weed**, and later by thousands of acres blanketed by orange groves; most are now gone for good. But more than 100 varieties of butterflies are still found in the greater Los Angeles area.

Oleanders are a large bush (they can also be trained to grow like a tree, as ours does) with long, narrow green leaves and a profusion of blossoms that can be white or pink. They grow in yards, public parks and along streets. They contain a chemical, *oleandrin*, which can be deadly.

Trees

The coral tree is Los Angeles' official tree as well as the California state tree.

Because this is basically an arid area, there aren't many dominant trees that are native. Up in the mountains (you can drive up into the Los Padres National Forest in an

hour from downtown Los Angeles) are **pines** and **spruce**. In the thousands of square miles of desert around here you will find mostly **yucca** and **creosote**, which is more of a bush. The **California oak**, of which there are several varieties, is the best known native tree.

Palm Trees

The tall, slender palms that sway at the tops as they line Beverly Hills streets are called Washingtonia robusta.

The only native palm is the **California fan palm** (*Washingtonia filifera*); it is found only in the desert, and is not often found even there. All the rest of those thousands of palms planted in rows in every neighborhood were put there during land booms, starting in the 1880s when Midwesterners arrived in Biblical throngs seeking the Garden of Eden in this new promised land. There were plenty of locals ready to dress up the environment to give them whatever they wanted. The advantages of palms are that they thrive in an arid climate, they can withstand extreme temperatures and they bend, rather than break, in strong winds. The disadvantages are that palms are a fire hazard; they ignite like a gas-soaked torch in the periodic fires that sweep whole areas. They are also a favorite home for rats and scorpions.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The palm trees you see are almost all imported from Africa, the Canary Islands, Japan, China, Mexico, Central and South America, the Mediterranean, and the Near East. Palm trees were imported as far back as 1769 when Junípero Serra planted a Moroccan date palm by the newly built San Diego Mission.

Eucalyptus

These tall trees have dull green, narrow pointed leaves, branches that usually don't spread out a great deal, and thick trunks with whitish or silvery bark that comes off in

sheets. They all come from Australia. You will find them here and there, usually planted singly. Where they are in a long line you know there was once a farm there and the trees were planted as a windbreak.

WHOOPS!

The Santa Fe Railroad bought several square miles of land a few miles from the ocean and planted it thickly with thousands of eucalyptus, intending to use them as railroad ties. Too late, they discovered that eucalyptus is too soft and grows with a crooked grain, and therefore makes lousy railroad ties. Rancho Santa Fe, down the coast, is now a very shady place where millionaires, including Hollywood stars, go to retire.

Exotic Plants

Almost all the other hundreds of varieties of trees you see around the area are imported. A few of the more spectacular are the **banana trees** from Abyssinia, which don't bear fruit (the climate is wrong); the **jade trees** that are scarlet in the spring (there is a brilliant row down the middle of San Vicente Boulevard in Santa Monica); and the **jacaranda trees** from Brazil, which you will sometimes see planted on both sides of the street for a block or more in a residential neighborhood – the lavender flowers are unbelievable.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Most people think *jacaranda* is a Spanish word and pronounce the first syllable "ha"; actually, it is a Brazilian-Indian name and is pronounced with a hard "j", as in "jar": jah-ca-rahn-da.

HAVE YOU SEEN A CENTURY PLANT?

The drought-resistant Agave *americana* of the Southwest deserts is often seen in our area. It is a variety of cactus with long, gray-green, needle-tipped leaves, which radiate out from a low center; these leaves can be anywhere from one to eight feet in length. The plant grows slowly and flowers only rarely – once every century, it was thought; in reality it flowers once every 10 years or so. A single stalk springs from the center of the plant and grows 15 to 40 feet in a short time. It quickly flowers and then dies, leaving behind dozens of small, spiky new plants clustered around the bottom part of the parent.

Be careful – each triangular leaf has thorns on the sides and a vicious black needle. The century plant is a close cousin of Agave *tequilana*, which grows in Mexico, the source of the elixir so popular here: tequila.

Urban Parks

Los Angeles has the lowest square feet of park per inhabitant of any major US city, and what it lacks most are small neighborhood parks for kids to play in. What we do have are big spaces, mostly far from those kids.

Echo Park: This one's not so big, but there's a lake with boats. Many silent films were shot here.

MacArthur Park: The original name was Westlake Park; the name was changed during WWII and renamed for the general who faded away. There is a lake, with boats to paddle, but these days there are also an abundance of dope dealers plying their wares. Another place often filmed in days of yore, but not much lately.

Look for the statue of James Dean in Griffith Park; part of Rebel Without A Cause *was shot at the Observatory.*

Griffith Park: The largest urban park in the country, far bigger than New York's Central Park, with picnic areas, golf courses, a carousel and the Gene Autry Western Museum in the manicured area, and mountains and wild ani-

mals for the hikers and horseback riders to encounter (for more about this park see pages 164-175).

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy: Private and government money is saving as much of these wild lands as possible. There are hiking trails and movie ranches where many pics are shot.

Palisades Park: This 1½-mile-long narrow strip of park along the edge of a bluff in Santa Monica is at the edge of the continent, as far as you can go.

Natural Disasters

We have had conversations with people visiting from the middle of the country who have said, "So many terrible things happen in this place, I don't know how you can live here." That from someone who has to dive into the tornado cellar every year.

Earthquakes

When the first European explorers arrived with Portolá, they got as far as the Santa Ana River, southeast of Los Angeles; they called it *Río de los Temblores* because that is where they experienced their first earthquake. The priest who was along, Fra Juan Crespi, wrote, "It lasted about half as long as an Ave Maria, and about 10 minutes later it was repeated."

They marched on. Crespi wrote again, "In the afternoon we felt another earthquake." The next day, "At ten in the morning the earth trembled. The shock was repeated with violence at one in the afternoon, and one hour afterwards." The following day they reached the river and the site of the future city. "Here we felt three consecutive earthquakes in the afternoon and night."

In 1812, an earthquake damaged the San Fernando Mission. According to Philip L. Fradkin's The Seven States of California, the Fort Tejon quake of 1857 "caused [the Los Angeles River] to leave its bed." There were good-sized quakes in 1860. The Long Beach quake of 1931 damaged many buildings and was felt extensively in Hollywood. We were living in Van Nuys in the San Fernando Valley dur-

ing the 1971 quake. We are happy to report that, although the water came out of the pool in a tidal wave, there was no damage except for a startled, wet dog.

THE RICHTER SCALE

There are many small quakes, perhaps not every day, but it is not uncommon to feel a jolt. Unless you are extremely unlucky, in which case you should never get out of bed anyway, don't worry about it.

Earthquakes are measured by the Richter Scale, which was developed by Charles Richter of the California Institute of Technology. The scale starts at 0 and has no upper limit. On this scale, the earth's movement is measured in tenths of a percent. The scale does not ascend arithmetically; it has a logarithmic basis, and each whole number indicates a quake 10 times stronger than the previous whole number, with 31 times more energy. For instance, the 1994 Northridge quake, at 6.7, would be 10 times stronger than a quake measured at 5.7. If you experience a quake while you are in Hollywood, turn on the television or look in the paper the next day to see what you went through.

- 0.0 to 2.0 – Called microquakes, not usually felt by humans
- 2.1 to 2.9 – Won't rate even a line in the papers
- 3.0 to 3.4 – *Comme ci, comme ça*
- 3.5 to 3.9 – Definitely a small story on page 12 of the *Los Angeles Times*
- 4.0 to 4.9 – Story in the *Times*, plus 30 seconds on local TV
- 5.0 to 5.7 – Front page of the *Times*; live coverage of the result on TV
- 6.0 and up – *Times*: four to six pages; TV stations: hysteria

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The 1994 Northridge earthquake registered 6.8 and caused 61 deaths; the Maharashta, India quake six months earlier registered 6.4 and caused 9,748 deaths. The largest known shocks have had magnitudes in the 8.0 to 8.9 range.

Fires & Earthslides

We are discussing these together because one often causes the other. Within a month after the end of the spring rains, the green hills turn yellow and brown as the wild grass and brush dries up. Signs go up immediately on every road leading into the hills: "Extreme Fire Danger – No Smoking!" Summer sun bakes the chaparral for a few months, then in the fall the high winds start, along with a low moisture content in the air. When conditions are right (usually by Christmas), a spark can start a brush fire that quickly sweeps across mountains and through cañons that are almost impassible for fire equipment.

Famous for property losses and destruction of celebrities' homes was the fire that began in the Santa Monica Mountains on November 6, 1961. With a strong Santa Ana wind behind it, the fire roared through the canyons and over the steep slopes from Beverly Glen westward through Bel-Air; it jumped across the freeway at Sepulveda Canyon, raced through the Brentwood hills and joined another fire that had started in the Malibu mountains.

A big fire rating its own name, such as Malibu, Bel-Air, or Laguna, can be counted on at least every three to four years.

Close to 500 homes were burned; most were total losses, including those of Joe E. Brown, Zsa Zsa Gabor and Burt Lancaster. Whole blocks of homes were destroyed with only the chimneys and bits of plumbing left. The swimming pools, full of water, were untouched.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The Malibu fire of a few years ago burned from Westlake Village, across the Coastal Mountains, jumped Pacific Coast Highway and destroyed homes that were on stilts in the sand a few feet from the ocean.

The Pacific Coast Highway, with heavy traffic every day, only two lanes in each direction and no other roads to take, is particularly prone to being closed because of landslides.

The fires typically consume most of the ground vegetation. In the spring following each fire, the city moves quickly to reseed the denuded hillsides with wild grasses – it is done by plane, from the air. If the seeds grow and the roots hold the soil together, all is well. If not, the first rain is likely to bring the hill down in a landslide.

Facts About LA

Size

County of Los Angeles . . . . . 4,752 square miles
City of Los Angeles . . . . . 467 square miles

Population

There are 88 incorporated cities in Los Angeles County, ranging from little Vernon, population 91, to big Los Angeles.

State of California . . . . . 33.9 million
County of Los Angeles . . . . . 9.5 million
City of Los Angeles . . . . . 3.7 million

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Twenty-six percent of California's population is foreign-born. Los Angeles has the most diverse multiethnic population of any city. People from about 140 countries, speaking 86 different languages, call Los Angeles home.

Tourism

In 1999, Los Angeles recorded 23.8 million overnight visitors. In 2000, the number of arrivals via air, train and ship totaled approximately 90 million.

By Air

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) . 67,606,831
John Wayne Airport (Orange County) 7,772,801
Ontario International Airport 6,743,936
Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport 4,748,742
Long Beach Airport 664,094

California's official state tartan (our legislators have nothing better to do) is that of the family of naturalist John Muir.

By Train

Amtrak, Union Station 1,300,000

By Cruise Ship

Port of Los Angeles 1,082,584

Beaches

Attendance at Los Angeles County beaches was 53.9 million people in 2000.

If Los Angeles County were a state it would rank eighth in population, behind Ohio and ahead of Michigan.

Leading Tourist Attractions

- **Universal Studios**, San Fernando Valley
- **Disneyland Anaheim**, 25 miles southeast of LA
- **Walk of Fame**, Hollywood
- **Rodeo Drive**, Beverly Hills
- **Venice Beach**, Venice
- **Grauman's Chinese Theatre**, Hollywood
- **Sunset Boulevard**, Hollywood to the beach
- **Santa Monica Beach/Pier**, just north of Venice
- **Knott's Berry Farm**, 20 miles southeast of downtown
- **Marina del Rey**, just south of Venice

Contemporary Hollywood

Greater Los Angeles is home to 7,000 screen and TV writers and 60,000 actors.

There have always been complaints about runaway production (shooting pictures far from Hollywood, either to achieve the reality of foreign locations or simply to take advantage of lower labor and production costs). Lately the complaints have become more anguished as runaway pics and TV series, especially to Canada, have multiplied. But Hollywood is still the leading supplier of entertainment to the world. There are still more studios here, more actors, writers, cameramen, grips and all the other skilled people it takes to make a motion picture (whether it's a good picture or a bad one, it takes the same number of people).

Films mean big bucks: the film and TV industry spent $31 billion in Los Angeles County last year, more than any other business.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

One of life's little-known facts: Hollywood's nearest competitor in the production of movies is Bollywood, India's motion picture complex just north of Bombay, where more than 500 movies, mostly colorful romance-action extravaganzas, are produced yearly.

Telephone Area Codes

Because of its large population, Los Angeles County has several telephone area codes. You can tell what part of the county an address is in by its area code.

- **213 –** Downtown Los Angeles
- **310 –** West Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Westwood, Century City, Culver City, Santa Monica, Malibu, Venice, Marina del Rey, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), and south to San Pedro
- **323 –** Hollywood, West Hollywood, Laurel Canyon
- **424 –** Below LAX, south to San Pedro

Who Lives Here?

Here is how our information was unscientifically compiled. We've met some celebrities or worked with them during the years we were at the studios. And since we have been writing this book we have been calling friends who live in the various parts of town and asking, "Who lives in your neighborhood these days?" and we get answers like, "I bumped into so-and-so at the farmers' market last Sunday."

Everyone in Hollywood claims to be blasé about stars. It was the same when we were writing medical shows like *The Doctors* and *Medical Center*. We would call a doctor who was a specialist in our disease-of-the-week to authenticate some procedure. Without fail he or she would always start out, "Well, I never watch TV, but those medical shows are *so* inaccurate! Last week on *The Doctors*, that diagnosis was way off... " Blasé, but the information is always there.

Home Prices

> *Unfortunately, there is only one thing that stands between me and that property: the rightful owners.*
>
> – Harvey Korman, *Blazing Saddles*

As you mosey through the various communities, either on your own or on a tour bus, you might wonder what all these marvelous mansions cost. To give you an idea, we've included a sampling of median home prices for various communities (specific zip codes are indicated for some larger areas). Most stars' homes are betwen $1.5 and $4 million, though some mansions may be priced as high as $20 million.

MEDIAN HOME PRICES (YEAR 2000)

Bel-Air	$715,000
Beverly Hills (90210)	$1,236,000
Brentwood	$851,000
Hollywood (90068)	$513,000
Malibu	$920,000
Marina del Rey	$730,000
Pacific Palisades	$885,000
Santa Monica (90402)	$1,260,000
Studio City	$450,000
Topanga	$503,000
Venice	$395,000
West Hollywood/LA (90069)	$710,000
Westwood	$805,000

Getting Here

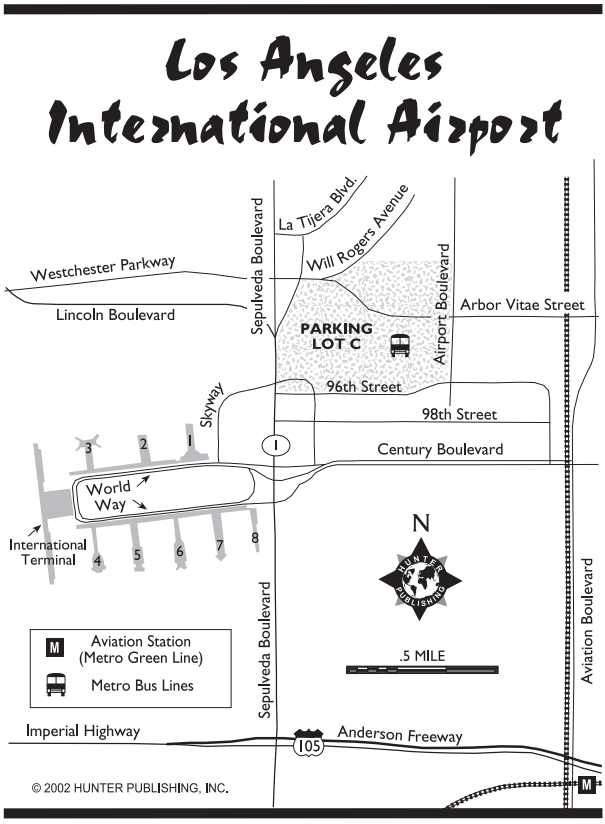
Los Angeles International Airport

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is southwest of Los Angeles and Hollywood, almost at the beach. Two freeways are near at hand: one, the **San Diego Freeway** (I-405), runs north and south to San Diego or San Francisco; the other, the **Santa Monica Freeway** (I-10) goes east, toward downtown LA. The beach cities are nearby – Marina del Rey and Venice are just a five-minute drive; Hollywood is a half-hour to 45 minutes away. It is a fairly well organized airport; most of the distances spent walking with luggage are not long. Hotels and restaurants near the airport are listed in *The Beach Communities* chapter, pages 368-372 and 376-378.

LAX is one of the busiest airports in the US.

What to Expect

LAX has always been fairly friendly as big airports go. Of course, after the events of September 11, 2001, it was a mess, as were all the others. Many restrictions have been dropped since then, but some remain as we go to press,



and look as if they will be with us for some time to come. Hope for the best, but be prepared. For more information, call LAX, ☎ 310-646-5252 or 888-544-9444; check their Web site at www.lawa.org; or contact your airline.

◆ **ID:** Passengers should have photo identification to present at airline check-in points.

◆ **Tickets:** If you have an electronic ticket you will need a printed confirmation or the passenger record locater number. Tickets, boarding passes and ID will be required at checkpoints and gates. Names on tickets and IDs must match.

◆ **Time:** Allow sufficient time for increased security. The new industry standard is two hours for a domestic flight and three for international.

◆ **Bags:** Curbside baggage check-in is available again for many (but not all) domestic flights, but not for international ones. If you can check your bags at the curb you may not have to stand in line at the airport ticket counter.

◆ **Carry-ons:** Take only one carry-on and one personal item, such as a handbag. Have identification tags on all carry-ons, which generally should measure less than 9x14x22 inches (this can vary by airline; check ahead of time). Remove batteries from electronic items, and do not wrap gifts.

◆ **Checkpoints:** Passengers and bags will be searched at random.

◆ **Prohibited items:** Items that may not be carried beyond the security checkpoint, either in carry-on bags or on your person, include knives, cutting instruments of any composition or description, spare blades, straight razors, metal scissors, corkscrews, baseball bats, golf clubs, ski poles and hockey sticks. It is wise to check with the airline or airport before your departure date to find out what is prohibited.

NATURE NOTES

The endangered **El Segundo Blue butterfly**, found at the end of the LAX runways on the land that slopes down to the beach, is the success story of the El Segundo Dunes. Because the butterfly thrives on coastal buckwheat, LAX installed a buckwheat nursery at the airport, and transplants the seedlings among the dunes. The rare butterflies emerge from their cocoons between June and August. More information is available at www.dune-prairie.org/projects/friends/animals/insects.html.

Other Airports

Burbank Airport is smallish, surrounded by homes and industries, yet it accommodates a large number of flights. It is closer to Downtown LA and Hollywood than LAX, without the large crowds. Among the airlines servicing this airport are American, Alaska Airlines, America West, Southwest, and United. 2627 Hollywood Way, Burbank, ☎ 818-840-8840, parking info 818-840-8837, www.burbankairport.com.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

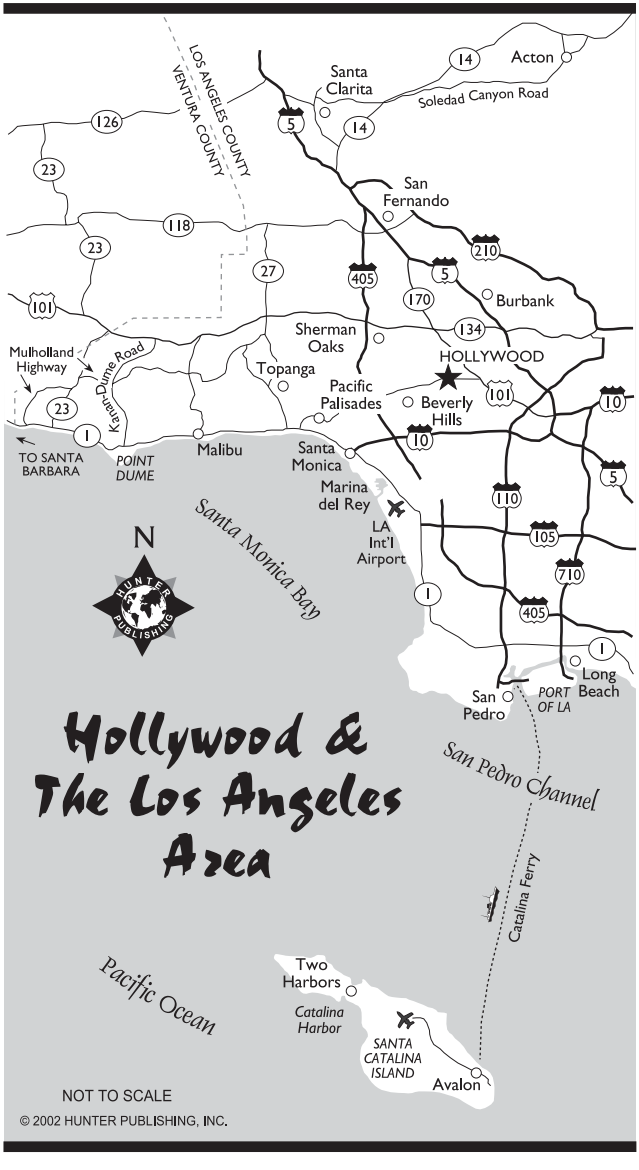
The P-38 fighter was mass-produced at the Burbank Airport during World War II.

John Wayne Airport south of LA is a very active one. Formerly the Orange County Airport, it was renamed in 1979 to honor the late movie star John Wayne, who lived in nearby in Newport Beach. It is not as handy to LA/Hollywood, unless your destination is along the south coast. It is serviced by most major airlines. 3160 Airway Avenue, Costa Mesa, ☎ 949-252-5171, www.ocair.com.

A nine-foot-tall bronze statue of "The Duke" stands in the terminal at the John Wayne Airport.

Ontario International Airport is smaller than LAX, but has shorter lines and usually less hassle. But it is farther from town, 35 miles east of Downtown LA. Ontario has 107 daily nonstop flights to 18 domestic cities and Mexico. 2900 E. Airport Drive, Ontario, ☎ 866-456-3900, www.lawa.org.

Long Beach Airport is the smallest and least-used of the area's airports. It's south of Downtown LA and Hollywood, midway between LAX and John Wayne airports. American, America West and JetBlue are among the airlines that service it. 4100 Donald Douglas Drive, Long Beach, ☎ 562-570-2600, www.lgb.org.



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Getting Around

By Car

The building of freeways has enhanced Los Angeles' obsession with moving around only by car. Los Angeles has been called an autopia. Unfortunately, freeway speed is slowing year by year. It now averages 30 mph and it is estimated that in 10 years we will all be driving at 25 miles an hour. Here are some facts about Los Angeles' freeways.

◆ **Lane 1**, the fast lane, is next to the center divider; lanes are numbered outward.

◆ Most **potholes**, which are caused by trucks, are in the outside lanes.

◆ Patrolling of the freeways is the job of the **California Highway Patrol**, not the city police.

◆ **Sigalert** is a notice of an accident or anything that slows or stops traffic. The word is not short for signal, as it sounds; it was named for Lloyd Sigmon, who first broadcast traffic advisories from a plane over Los Angeles.

◆ **Slowdowns** are caused most often by rubberneckers gawking at another driver getting a ticket.

◆ **Telephones** along the side of the freeway are used by drivers to report a problem on the road. They have only one channel and are free.

◆ **Tow trucks** patrol the main freeways in the Los Angeles area. The drivers will fix a flat, supply gas or tow the car to the nearest garage. The service is free.

◆ **Traffic advisory** broadcasts on your car radio are notices of road repairs.

YOU SHOULD KNOW...

Throughout California, drivers and all passengers must wear seatbelts at all times when traveling in a car. Children under six years of age and under 60 pounds must be secured in a child safety seat.

Humorist Robert Benchley said, "Los Angeles is 72 suburbs in search of a city."

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

"Botts dots," the raised lane markers line California's roads by the millions, were invented by Elbert Botts, who gave his invention to the state free.

WATCH THOSE INTERCHANGES!

The Pasadena Freeway was completed in 1941 – the first in the nation.

Visitors are sometimes baffled by the freeways here: Angelenos typically refer to local freeways by name, not number – and then the names and numbers change. For example, the **Hollywood Freeway** is Highway 101 when you're in Los Angeles, but becomes CA 170 when it reaches the San Fernando Valley. The **Ventura Freeway**, which is CA 134 from Pasadena into LA, is suddenly Highway 101. The **Santa Monica Freeway** changes its name to the **San Bernardino Freeway** once it is east of Downtown and the LA River, but it is still I-10. I-5 is the **Golden State Freeway** until it gets Downtown; then it becomes first the **Santa Ana** and then the **San Diego Freeway** after it heads out of town to the southeast; and the faithful north-south **San Diego Freeway** (I-405) never actually arrives in San Diego (at least not until it merges with I-5).

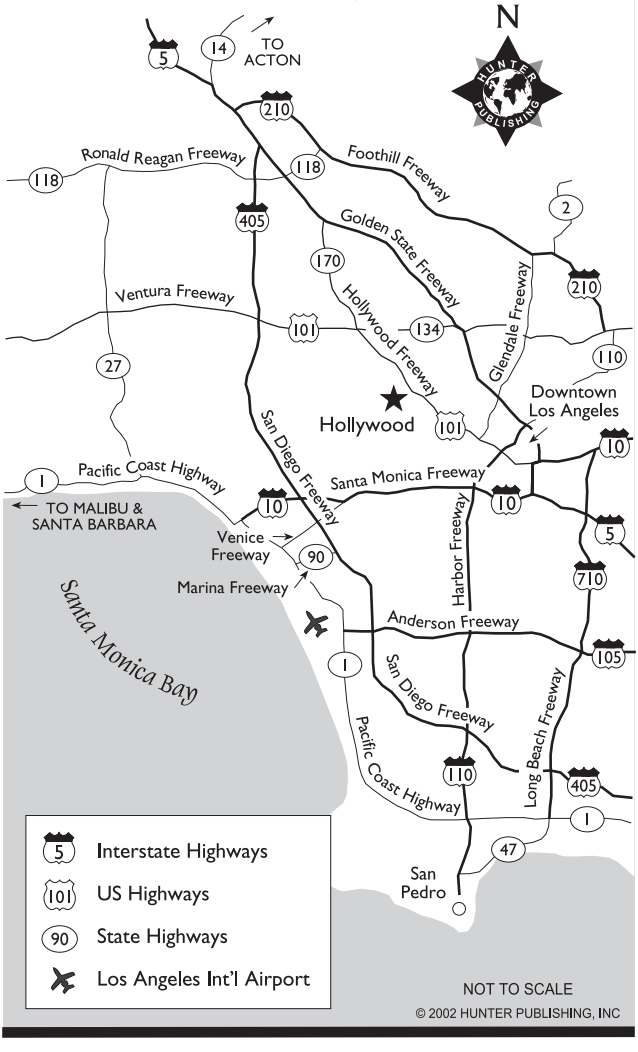
⚠ WARNING!

The freeways that were built to speed up traffic are now often slow-moving or clogged. Give yourself plenty of time!

By Bus, Train & Subway

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA/Metro), ☎ 800-266-6883, www.mta.net, serves Greater Los Angeles, with 180 Metro Bus and

LA's Freeways



Metro Rail lines. Fares vary, with discounts for seniors and children.

Warning! Jaywalking is prohibited in Los Angeles. Violators are ticketed and fined.

Red Line – subway, downtown Los Angeles to Wilshire/Western, Hollywood, North Hollywood.

Blue Line – light rail trains between Downtown Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Green Line – light rail between Norwalk and Redondo Beach, stopping at LAX.

Metrolink – rail; ☎ 800-371-LINK (5465).

HOLIDAY TRANSPORTATION

The MTA traditionally offers free rides on buses from 9pm Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve to 5am Christmas Day and New Year's Day, and on the rail system from 9pm Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve to closing (generally at midnight). Metrolink trains do not run Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

By Taxi

Taxis do not cruise in Los Angeles. They wait at major hotels and respond to phone calls. Beware of unlicensed, uninsured taxis.

When leaving the airport you are required to take the next cab in the taxi line outside the terminal. In each chapter we list local cab companies and phone numbers so that you can contact them for your return trip to LAX. Flag drop is $1.90, plus $1.60 per mile. Following are sample taxi fares (without a tip) from Los Angeles International Airport. When traveling from the airport, add a $2.50 airport fee (the airport fee is not applicable when returning to LAX).

Beverly Hills $27
Hollywood $31
Downtown Los Angeles $35

By Shuttle

In the terminal, near the exit doors, you will see a bank of telephones with free, dedicated phone lines to each shuttle

company; you can find out the fare to your destination and the arrival time of their next van. Or, skip the phones and walk outside to the traffic island marked "shuttles" and wait for the next one marked with your destination. You might end up sharing a van with several others; the driver may loop around the airport a few times, hoping to pick up a full load. You'll note that the fare to Beverly Hills is more expensive than the fare to Downtown; we have never understood the pricing, since the ride to Downtown is a longer trip. Shuttle operators include **Prime Time Shuttle**, ☎ 800-733-8267, www.primetimeshuttle.com; **Super Shuttle**, ☎ 310-782-6600 or 323-775-6600, www.supershuttle.com; and **X-Press**, ☎ 800-427-7483.

Average fares from the airport, without tip (there is no airport fee):

Beverly Hills . . . . . $22 first person, $9 each additional
Hollywood . . . . . $22 first person, $9 each additional
Downtown LA . . . . . $13 per person

Best Places to Stay

Most of the places recommended here have been featured in numerous movies, such as the Regent Beverly Wilshire (*Pretty Woman*), or are the location of many star-studded events, à la Merv Griffin's Beverly Hilton, or are in a particularly good location. A few borderline exceptions are included because, to some film buffs, their unique historic significance relating to motion pictures may be enough to compensate for a lack of certain amenities.

Finding A Hotel

The City of Los Angeles is very spread out. Your choice of hotel is often dependent on your mode of transportation. If you are going to be driving a car here, you will need plenty of time to get from one place to another. Inadequate public transportation is a constant complaint, and it's the reason almost everyone who can afford to drives a car. Most of the large chains have hotels on or near Century Boulevard close by LAX, with free shuttle buses to and from the airport. This can be a good choice if you have a car, but not so

There are few inns or B&Bs in this area. The exception is the Venice Beach House (see page 401).

good if you are going to be dependent on public transportation.

MAKING HOTEL RESERVATIONS

To get the room you want and to avoid misunderstandings, make sure to take care of everything at the time you make the reservation.

- Reserve as early as possible; you are more likely to get the room you want.
- If you have floor or other location preferences, tell the reservation clerk. A room in the back, or over a garden, may be quieter. Higher floors may be less safe in case of fire; ground floor rooms are less protected from intruders.
- State the number of guests, including children, who will be staying in the room. Children often stay free or at reduced rates. Mention any special needs, such as cribs, cots, extra blankets.
- State smoking preferences. Do not ask for a non-smoking room unless you are sure no one will smoke. Just one cigarette could trigger a large surcharge.
- If someone in your party has a disability, ask exactly what a "disabled" or "handicapped" room means. Are there doors wide enough for a wheelchair? Is there a seat in the shower?
- Pay with a credit card, if possible, and ask if the hotel will guarantee your reservation; if you should be delayed in arriving, your room will still be waiting for you. However, if you don't arrive, you are still obligated to pay.
- If there is a change in plans, cancel your room as soon as possible to receive the maximum refund.
- A few hotels include a buffet or continental breakfast in the room rate. If they do, the listing will say so.

Accommodations Price Scale

We are not giving exact dollar amounts for room rates; they change too often. But to help you stay within your budget we use a scale to indicate rates from **Inexpensive** to **Deluxe**. The prices quoted are based on the cost of a double room, two people per room; they do not include any service charges or room taxes, which vary in Los Angeles County from city to city. Be sure to ask what additional charges apply when you make your reservation. If a hotel has a particularly wide range, with some rooms moderately priced and others in the expensive range, that is indicated in the listing.

ACCOMMODATIONS PRICE SCALE
Price scale is based on a standard room for two persons, per night.
Inexpensive . . . . . .less than $100
Moderate. . . . . $100-$200
Expensive . . . . . $201-$300
Deluxe . . . . . .more than $300

Tip: Don't become victim to an alarm clock set by a previous guest. Check the clock radio before retiring.

★ TIP

The Los Angeles area hosts many business travelers. Occupancy – and rates – tends to be lower on weekends.

JUST FOR KIDS

If your kids are tired of being cooped up in a hotel room in the evenings and want something to do, try Storyline, a free service provided by the nonprofit Screen Actors Guild Foundation. Call the number for your area and a professional actor will read a story to your child over the phone. The idea is to get children hooked on reading. In Hollywood, dial ☎ 323-374-2444; Downtown LA, ☎ 213-632-2300; West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Santa Monica, ☎ 310-623-5777; San Fernando Valley, ☎ 818-239-3111. Storyline is also available in Las Vegas, Minneapolis and Phoenix, and on the Internet at www.bookpals.net, with sound and live scenes of the actors reading.

Best Places to Eat

Choosing A Restaurant

There are thousands of restaurants in the area between downtown Los Angeles and Malibu by way of Hollywood and Beverly Hills. We can name only a small percentage, so we have concentrated on those where celebrities go to eat, or that have strong connections to film, that you might recognize from movies or television series that were shot there. There are many perfectly good restaurants in the area that didn't make the cut where you will get a fine meal.

Food preferences are so personal and varied that we can't guarantee you will adore every meal in every restaurant we recommend. The majority of places listed are of high quality, though it is possible you are simply not a fan of a particular chef's style. We tell you of the few cases where the food is definitely not the main reason to visit a particular restaurant. Finally, we have tried to use the restaurateur's own description of his or her food, so if one place calls it continental, another calls it Mediterranean and

the third nouvelle Euro and they all taste the same, well, that's the way the meatball bounces.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Though it comes as a shock to many European and Asian visitors, smoking is not permitted in restaurants, bars, theaters, museums or most other public buildings in Santa Monica or throughout California. You may smoke on the beaches, but please dispose of your cigarette properly so that some bare-footed beachgoer doesn't step on it.

Dining Price Scale

There is quite a price variation in Los Angeles restaurants, so to keep you on target we label them **Inexpensive** to **Very Expensive**. The prices quoted are for one meal, based on an entrée, soup or salad and coffee. Appetizer, dessert, wine and liquor are not included, because so many times they are not ordered. We do not include tax (which varies from one municipality to another) or tip (add 20% if you are a big tipper, 15% if you are or want to appear normal, 10% if you think tipping is immoral).

Don't forget, there is usually a valet parking attendant to tip.

As a general guideline, appetizers in most of the restaurants listed in this book will be priced from $6 to $12, desserts from $4 to $6, drinks from $5 up (martinis have reached $12 in some places), and wine is usually $4 to $9 a glass, with minimum bottle prices in the high $20s in some places, and much higher in others.

★ TIP

If you have never had Ethiopian cuisine, get to **Fairfax Avenue**, a block south of Olympic Boulevard, between La Brea and La Cienega boulevards, where a half-dozen Ethiopian and Eritrean restaurants are clustered. The food is delicious!

DINING PRICE SCALE	
Pricing includes one entrée, with soup or salad and coffee.	
Inexpensive	less than $20
Moderate	$20-$30
Expensive	$31-40
Very Expensive	more than $40

Other Arcane Matters

Making Reservations

Always reserve ahead, if possible. If you are going to be more than 10 or 15 minutes late, call and say so. And if your plans change completely, call and cancel your reservation. We realize that a lot of currently hot restaurants overbook shamelessly, but that is to protect themselves from the people who make reservations (sometimes at two or three restaurants) and never bother to cancel.

What can you do if you call and say you want a table for four on a Saturday night at 8:30 and are told that the only tables available that night are before six and after 10? There is one theory that you will find stars who have an early call at the studio the next morning dining in those

restaurants at 6pm. We have never found that to be so. The obvious recourse is to simply try somewhere else.

One strategy is a gamble. You can go ahead and show up at the restaurant at 8:30pm without reservations and hope there have been cancellations.

> ★ TIP
>
> At a restaurant with a show-biz clientele, psychology is all-important. You must walk up to the maître d's little podium with complete confidence that he/she will, of course, seat you as soon as something is available. If you are hesitant, or meek, or show any signs that you don't really expect to be seated, you won't be. But if you are turned away anyway, don't write us an irate letter. We said up front it is a gamble.

Dress & Undress

In Los Angeles, just as in the rest of the country, formality in dress has gone the way of the 3¢ postage stamp. You needn't worry that you won't be allowed in without a tie. But if you are going to an upscale place where other patrons will be dressed nicely, it's considerate to dress accordingly. Casual-stylish-chic is what to aim for. Clean and halfway decent will do.

Turning the Tables

Suppose you are just in town for a few days and want to see some celebrities while you are here. So you make a reservation at Ago or Spago Beverly Hills and, when the maître d' doesn't seat you next to a table full of stars, you complain loudly. This is definitely bad form. He doesn't know you, and what big pictures have you made lately?

On the other hand, if you are given what is obviously the lousiest table in the house you don't have to just settle for

it. If you are seated next to the kitchen door, or by the bathroom door, or in front of the exit, or there is a draft on the back of your neck, the best policy is to politely ask if there is another table available. Indicate the empty table you would prefer. Maybe that one by the window with a view or that cozy booth really *is* reserved, but they will usually move you somewhere else, unless the table you have been given really is the only one available. In such a case we usually opt to wait in the bar for the next available table.

Those "A" Cards

The Los Angeles County Department of Health rates all restaurants, including hot dogs stands and fast food places. If there is an "A" card in the window the establishment passed their latest inspection with no problems. A "B" card indicates something was wrong, but not enough to close them down. A "C" card – well, we have never seen one; we assume the owners hide them. There have been times we have passed up places with B cards, figuring, "Why take a chance?" On the other hand, if there is no card in sight and it is supposed to be a high-class joint, you can figure the owner felt it was beneath him to have to show any card at all. Either that or he got a rating he is ashamed of. It happens.

Smoking

There is no smoking in any office, workplace, restaurant or bar in the state, unless you are seated outdoors, such as on an open patio. This sometimes annoys people from overseas, who mumble about the California health nuts. Tough.

Park Your Car?

Most restaurants offer valet parking. The charge can be anywhere from $2.50 to $5, plus a tip of $1 or $2. (Celebrities, because they are celebrities and highly paid, are expected to tip from $5 to $20, and often do.) If you have a

Lamborghini or a really sharp Rolls you can expect to see it parked right up front in the lot. Look for our Nissan SX2 somewhere back among the Hondas and Chevys.

Shopping

Would you be shocked if I put on something more comfortable?

– Jean Harlow, *Hell's Angels*

Malls

There are, of course, huge shopping malls that have become what we suppose the village green was like in days of yore, at least for the kids who now teem like lemmings in most of them: the place to hang out. For those who view shopping as a team sport, to be done only in crowds, here are the locations of the principal malls.

Beverly Center, 8500 Beverly Boulevard, at La Cienega. Barely in Los Angeles, almost surrounded by West Hollywood and Beverly Hills. ☎ 310-854-0070.

Century City Shopping Center, 10250 Santa Monica Boulevard, at Little Santa Monica and Avenue of the Stars. ☎ 310-277-3898.

Westside Pavilion Mall, 10800 Pico Boulevard at Westwood, West Los Angeles. ☎ 310-474-6255.

Santa Monica Place, on Broadway, at the south end of Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade. ☎ 310-394-1049.

The Galleria, San Fernando Valley, Ventura Boulevard and Cedros Avenue, Sherman Oaks. ☎ 818-382-4100.

Specialty Shopping

When people around the world think of Hollywood, they think glamorous, hip, funky, cool, with-it... and all that is to be found on four stretches of pavement. It is just a matter of strolling... and marveling.

In Hollywood, **Melrose Avenue**, from La Brea to west of Fairfax has funky little shops. This is where shopaholics head for far-out goods. What's created out of recyclables

here today will hit the rest of the country next year. The celebrity-spotting ratio is higher west of Fairfax.

Beverly Hills' **Rodeo Drive**, from Little Santa Monica Boulevard to Wilshire, offers medium-size, upscale shops; it's the home of haute couture. A platinum American Express card will come in handy. On **Wilshire Boulevard**, from Camden Drive to Santa Monica Boulevard, a half-dozen *très*-expensive department stores line the south side of the boulevard.

In Santa Monica, shop along **Montana Avenue**, from 7th Street to about 20th. It's harder to walk here because the boutiques are scattered, but the hardware stores and bakeries long patronized by the neighborhood are steadily disappearing, as high-priced clothing stores able to pay higher rents move in. This trend is being accelerated by frequent mentions in print of the celebrities who shop here.

★ TIP

Even if you are not going to shop, you should know that most stars are avid shoppers. The four areas listed above are prime celebrity-spotting haunts.

After Dark

No lack of nightlife here! There are several hundred live theaters, probably more than you'll find anywhere else in the world. If you don't want to travel across town to one of the big houses, there are small, professional theaters in almost every community. And thousands of professional writers, directors and actors supply talent to those theaters.

Hollywood (meaning this entire area) never was a good nightclub town, and it still isn't if you define nightclub as a place where you can have drinks while you enjoy live music or a floor show. But it does have a very hot club scene, meaning DJs and dancing. Almost everyone who goes to the dozens of clubs is in their 20s, and conscious of the cur-

rent dress trends. If you are a beautiful woman under 30, you will probably be ushered in with alacrity and without paying a cover charge. Otherwise, you will be hard put to get past the guards at the door unless you are a star, a producer or Hugh Hefner. But then, he always has six Bunnies with him.

If neither theater nor clubs tempt you, see the *Los Angeles Times* or one of the free weekly newspapers for listings of everything else going on, from circuses to museum events. And a long, leisurely dinner at a good restaurant is sometimes best of all.

Pronunciation

The Los Angeles area was owned first by Spain (aside from the indigenous Indians, of course), then by independent Mexico, and did not become part of the US until 1850; as a result, many place and street names are Hispanic. Land speculators, wanting newcomers to think it was all part of a romantic past, gave the streets names like Ranchero Lane and Ocotillo Drive, no matter how tacky a development might have been. Here's a guide to help visitors avoid gaffes over some of the trickier pronunciations.

A Spanish Accent

If a word ends in a vowel, stress the next-to-last syllable. It is AL-ta VIS-ta Avenue in Hollywood. Sepulveda, the name of an old land-grant family and of a boulevard that runs about a hundred miles, is pronounced Se-PUL-ve-da because there was originally an accent over the u. Alvarado Avenue, named after another founding family, had no accent mark and is pronounced Al-va-RA-do. A double "ll," as in Ocotillo, is pronounced like "y": Oc-o-TEE-yo. Cañon Drive in Beverly Hills has the Spanish spelling, but is pronounced exactly the same as Canyon Drive in Hollywood, which has the English spelling.

Indian names are rare here; among the few are Point Mugu, Malibu and Cahuenga.

IT HELPS TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE

One of us phoned the Cañon Theatre for tickets and had a conversation about it with the fellow who answered.

Him: *Hello, Cannon Theatre.*

Me, a native, automatically: *Hello. It's "canyon."*

Him: *What?*

Me: *The name is pronounced "canyon."*

Him: *Cannon Theatre.*

Me: *Step outside and look at the sign. There's a tilde over the n.*

Him: *What?*

Me: *When did you get here from New York?*

Him: *Six months ago. What?*

Me: *And where are you now?*

Him: *Cannon Theatre.*

Me: *I give up. Adios.*

Traveling With Pets

If you are thinking about bringing your pet, here are some good reasons why Prince or Fluffy should stay home.

◆ **Planes** – Pets must travel in a crate and have health certification. Cargo holds are not heated, cooled or soundproofed.

◆ **Hotels** – Many do not allow pets. They cannot stay alone in the room while you are out, because the maid must come in to clean.

◆ **Public Transportation & Attractions** – City buses, subways, tour buses and sites of interest do not allow pets, except for seeing-eye dogs.

◆ **Leash Laws** – Your pet must be on a leash whenever it is outdoors, including on beaches, where there is no running free, on pain of a stiff fine.

◆ **Losing a Pet** – Even well-trained pets can get stressed and nervous when traveling. Trying to find a lost pet in a strange city will sink any vacation.

FILM GLOSSARY

Barn Doors – Black flaps attached to the front of a light on the set to control shadows and the light's spill.

Information Sources

Tourist Information

For general information about the Los Angeles area, contact the **Los Angeles Convention & Visitors Bureau** (LACVB), ☎ 800-228-2452; 24-hour hotline, ☎ 213-689-8822; www.lacvb.com.

For specific local information, see **Visitors Information listings in the** *A to Z* section of each chapter.

Hollywood on Television – *The Stanley Dyrector Show*, Channel 36, daily, 8:30am. Most TV shows about Hollywood are lightweight chitchat about stars, occasionally accurate. There is one local show done by a knowledgeable pro, writer Stan Dyrector, who has been in the business for years. He interviews real people – writers, directors, actors – who tell it the way it is, with sometimes hilarious anecdotes about what *really* happened. The time for the 30-minute show is always subject to change; see www.la-36.org for details.

News & Entertainment Publications

Though there are several other smaller newspapers, the 800-pound gorilla here is the ***Los Angeles Times***. The daily *Calendar* section covers events relating to motion picture people.

LA Weekly, a giveaway found in some hotel lobbies and most liquor stores, plus markets and other shops, pub-

The Los Angeles Times' *Thursday and Sunday* Calendar *sections are heavy with movie and theater reviews.*

lishes approximately 200 pages every Wednesday. It features incisive investigative reporting on local and state politics and enormous listings and reviews of every movie and theatrical event around.

Entertainment Today is another free weekly that you can pick up on Fridays. Very good for film and theater reviews, nightclub and comedy club listings and everything interesting that is happening around town.

Most of the hotels have some sort of free local guide, which you may find in your room or at the check-in counter. Some of these guides list current schedules for film festivals and major theatrical events.

FILM GLOSSARY

Screen Actors Guild (SAG) – The actors' union, which negotiates basic contracts with the studios, independent producers and producers of commercials, and sees to the actors' residuals.

Downtown Los Angeles

I don't want to live in a city where the only cultural advantage is that you can make a right turn on a red light.
– Woody Allen, *Annie Hall*

Overview

To start off a book about Hollywood with a chapter on Downtown Los Angeles may seem quirky, but "Hollywood" is a metaphorical term; the Hollywood phenomenon influenced the entire area, and Downtown is where it made its earliest marks.

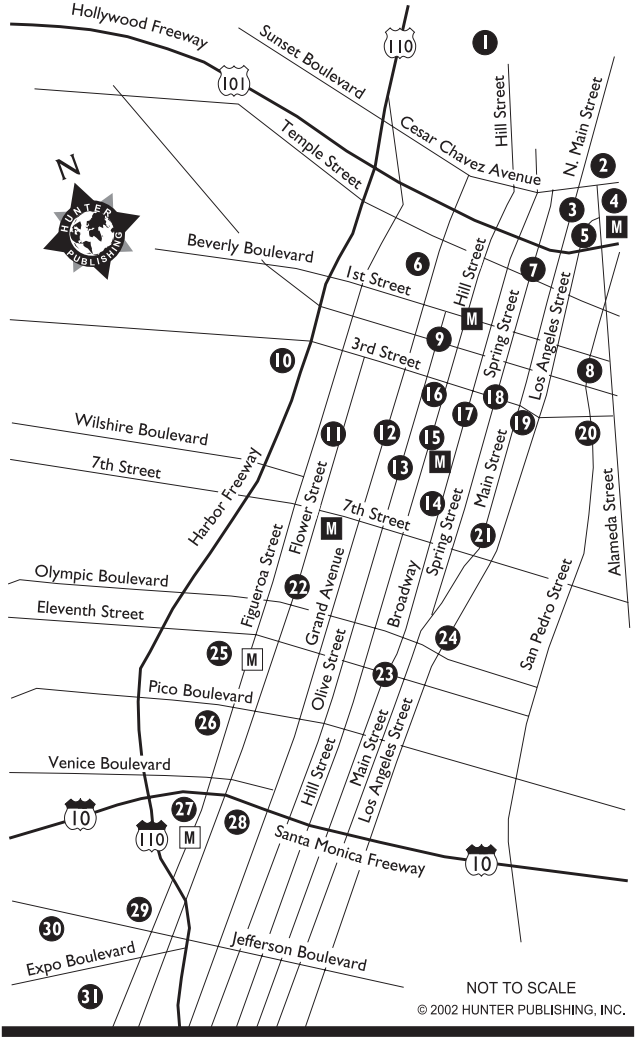
Movies were shot in Downtown Los Angeles for a half-dozen years before Cecil B. De Mille made the eight-mile trek out to the sleepy farming village of Hollywood. But the city saw its first moving image on the screen way before that, in 1896 at the Orpheum Theatre on Broadway, when the life-sized figure of Anna Belle Sun dancing was projected onto a white sheet. It lasted about a minute. But Los Angeles was always about much more than the movie industry.

History

The 18th & 19th Centuries

The original *pobladores* (colonizers) were 11 couples with 22 children, mostly Indians, blacks and mestizos. It wasn't until 1781, a few weeks before the British surrendered to George Washington at Yorktown, that the governor of Spanish California declared Los Angeles important enough to be called a town. After he read the proclamation making LA official, his men fired a lone cannon and the governor left, leaving a lowly corporal in charge.

Downtown Los Angeles



Key to Attractions Downtown Los Angeles

1. Chinatown
2. San Antonio Winery
3. El Pueblo District
4. Union Station
5. Philippe The Original
6. Music Center
7. Civic Center District: City Hall; US District Court Building; Criminal Justice Building
8. Little Tokyo
9. MOCA
10. LA Center Studios
11. Rosslyn Hotel
12. Wyndham Checkers
13. Biltmore Hotel
14. Los Angeles Theater
15. Pershing Square; Jewelry District
16. Subway Terminal Building
17. Bradbury Building
18. Los Angeles' Historic Core District
19. Alexandria Hotel
20. Toy District
21. Pacific Electric Building; Cole's P.E. Buffet
22. Variety Arts Center
23. *Herald Examiner* Bulding
24. Fashion District
25. Staples Center
26. LA Convention Center
27. Patriotic Hall
28. Olympic Auditorium
29. Shrine Auditorium
30. USC Campus
31. Exposition Park

M METRO Blue Line Station

M METRO Red Line Station

By 1784, the *pobladores* had replaced their original huts with adobe homes and laid the foundation for a church. Later, the Carillo, Olvera and Sepúlveda families built much fancier houses on the plaza near the church.

Today's plaza is not in the original location. It was rebuilt on higher ground after a flood.

The town grew slowly all through the Spanish and Mexican periods. It was the commercial center for a vast area of ranches, but since there was little contact with the outside world, commercial activity was limited. Though there was a wave of immigrants following the discovery of gold in 1848, almost all of those sensibly headed for northern California, where the gold was.

In spite of that, enough newcomers drifted into Los Angeles that soon the newly arrived whites outnumbered the long-settled Hispanics. Los Angeles in 1850 was barely a city; with a population of 1,610 it was more of a cowtown, with unpaved streets and little law – almost everyone toted a gun. Yet by the time the 19th century ended there had been a great change.

Between 1920 and 1924, 100,000 people a year poured into Los Angeles, mostly homeseekers.

DID YOU KNOW?

Until the 20th century, most of the population of California was male. The US Census of 1850 showed a total of 92,597 people in the state, of which only 7,017 were female.

The 20th Century

Through the 1950s Broadway was the prime shopping street in all of Southern California.

From that time on, almost until the present day, Los Angeles' history has been shaped by the goal of selling all the land surrounding it to everyone who could be enticed to come here. The city's borders were extended to take in that land, and the process was repeated as Los Angeles expanded in all directions. Downtown Los Angeles was the center of it all. None of the other little towns around it really counted. That's the way it was when the motion picture industry arrived.

Thomas Edison was probably the first movie-maker to reach Los Angeles, well before those who came later to escape the long arm of his company. Edison arrived in 1898, mounted his giant early camera on a horse-drawn wagon and shot the bustling life of Spring Street. The result was a 60-second film, *South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California*, shown for a nickel on Edison Kinetoscope Peep Shows.

FILM GLOSSARY

Focus puller – First assistant camera operator, whose job it is to control focus, especially during movement, and to maintain the camera.

Until the 1960s, the height limit on buildings in Los Angeles was 12 stories; City Hall was the only exception, with 26 floors.

Once the motion picture studios were built, the producers liked to shoot as much as possible in the studio to save money and time. But balancing that was a desire for reality, and sometimes the opportunity to use already-existing structures rather than building new sets. Many of the ear-

liest pictures were shot on the streets of Downtown Los Angeles and the neighborhoods just to the west.

During the first half of the 20th century, LA's Downtown finally grew into a major city. Though it didn't have any skyscrapers, it was the financial and commercial center of the southern part of the state. After World War II, vast tracts of newly built single-family homes were thrown up in the San Fernando Valley and other outlying areas, and big shopping malls were built to service them. Gradually people stopped coming to downtown Los Angeles. To this day that hasn't changed.

Bringing It Up to Date

When visiting a place for the first time, travelers often automatically book a downtown hotel, feeling they are sure to be in the center of things. Los Angeles is different, there is no real center. There are places to see and walks to take downtown, but mostly it is a starting place for tours going elsewhere. In the daytime, the office buildings are full and the Hispanic stores that line Broadway are crowded with shoppers. But after 5 o'clock everyone goes somewhere else. Bewildered tourists ask about downtown Los Angeles at night, "Where is everyone?"

Visitors think of downtown Los Angeles as central because it is between Disneyland and Universal City.

Los Angeles has a large theater-going population that takes the freeways to the Music Center, parks in the garage underneath the structure and afterward drives away again without ever setting foot on the downtown streets. The city-subsidized Music Center, consisting of a symphony/opera hall and two legitimate theaters, was cleverly built very near to where the Hollywood, Santa Ana, Harbor and Pasadena freeways all merge in a giant cloverleaf.

Getting Here

From LAX

By Car

From the airport, drive south a short distance to the Century Freeway (I-105) and go east. Proceed to Harbor Freeway (I-110) and head north. For most downtown hotels, exit from 9th to 4th streets east.

By Bus or Train

Take the free bus marked "Lot C" from in front of any terminal. Once at Lot C, walk a few steps to the Transit Station and get Metro Bus #40, 42, or 439. The fare is $1.35. Or, you can take the free Green Line shuttle bus, which also leaves from Lot C, to Aviation Station, where you catch the Metro Green Line train going east, then transfer to the Metro Blue Line train going north into Downtown Los Angeles. The fare is $1.60.

From Burbank Airport

Exit the airport, then go south to Victory Boulevard. Take Victory Boulevard east to the Golden State Freeway (I-5); go south to the Harbor Freeway (I-110), and continue south until you exit the freeway onto downtown streets headed east.

★ TIP

Metrolink has a double-decker commuter train that makes a 25-minute trip from Burbank Airport to Union Station, where you can connect with other Metrolink trains, subways and buses. It is about a five-minute walk from the air terminal to the Metrolink station, or you can take an airport shuttle. The fare to Union Station is $5. Check the Metrolink schedule at ☎ 800-COMMUTE or www.mta.net.

From Ontario Airport

Take the San Bernardino Freeway (I-10) west, to the Hollywood Freeway (101) going north; exit at downtown streets and head south.

From Santa Monica & the Beaches

Take the Santa Monica Freeway (I-10) east to the Harbor Freeway (I-110) north. Exit on downtown streets.

Getting Around

By Bus & Trolley

DASH buses (the letters stand for Downtown Area Short Hop) follow six short routes on weekdays and three on weekends. Everyone who works downtown uses these buses for quick trips. Pick up a map of routes and a schedule at your hotel or from a DASH bus. Buses run Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm; Saturday, 10am-2pm. Fare is 25¢, with one free transfer to another route. All DASH buses are wheelchair-accessible. ☎ 808-2273 (from all LA area codes).

Angels Flight had an accident in 2001 and has stopped working indefinitely. The well-known funicular railway

climbed the steep side of Bunker Hill from Hill Street at the bottom to the California Plaza by Olive Street near the top. It's a problem now to get from one to the other without Angels Flight. If you need a workout there are 153 steep stairs alongside the empty funicular tracks. If you would rather take it easy, the new **Bunker Hill Trolley**, a small bus with wooden seats and a bell at the front, picks up at Grand Central Market on Hill Street, goes up 2nd Street to Olive and drops passengers at an elevator or staircase that goes to California Plaza. The downhill trip is via 4th Street on a counterclockwise route. Hours are weekdays, 6:30am-6:30pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. Fare is 25¢.

How Far Is It?

From the center of Downtown LA (around Pershing Square):

Hollywood Boulevard . . . . . 6 miles
Universal Studios . . . . . 9 miles
Santa Monica Beaches . . . . . 16 miles
Disneyland . . . . . 26 miles
Los Angeles International Airport . . . . . 27 miles

Film Glossary

Gaffer – The senior electrician and lighting assistant, who rigs lights on the set under the direction of the director of photography.

Who Lived Here?

Los Angeles' wealthy set began moving out of the Downtown area in the late 1800s. Suburbs developed near the new University of Southern California, south of the city. The new district, called **West Adams**, was named for Adams Boulevard, west of Figueroa Street. The big, opulent homes, many of which still stand, fit in with the architectural styles of the day – Tudor, Elizabethan and Italianate.

When actors arrived in Hollywood, their first move was to check into the Alexandria Hotel at 4th and Main streets; the next move, when the real money flowed in, was to the Adams District. One home at **649 West Adams Boulevard** housed numerous stars; Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle was the first to live here, then Theda Bara, who became a star in 1917 with *Cleopatra*. She was followed by Raoul Walsh, then an actor but who later became a famed director, with his wife, Miriam Cooper, who portrayed the Southern belle in Griffith's *Birth of a Nation*. And finally the house was occupied by producer Joe Schenck, whose wife was Norma Talmadge. The house is still there, between Figueroa and Hoover.

IN CASE YOU'RE FEELING QUEASY

Los Angeles, built on a desert, saves water when it is plentiful by storing it in the ground underneath the city, and then draws on it when needed. But it has lately discovered there are unforeseen consequences. So much water is pumped in and out of the underground aquifers that stretch 25 miles south from beneath downtown Los Angeles, that much of the landscape rises and falls more than four inches each year. From fall until spring the water is pumped into the aquifers, causing the land to rise. In summer months the unseen reservoirs slowly collapse as they are drained.

On Location

Downtown Los Angeles has been the most filmed area ever since Thomas Edison set up his camera on Spring Street in 1898. Location shooting has only increased since. Different blocks double for big cities everywhere. Spring Street appears as Wall Street; the round, glass, futuristic Bonaventure Hotel shows up in countless sci-fi movies; the high-rise landscape evokes nameless urban areas; gritty warehouse streets echo to infinite gun battles. Over 7,000 film permits are issued every year for the downtown area; draw a two-mile-diameter circle around the area and 14,000 "shooting days" are spent each year within it.

Los Angeles as a Film Set

In the decades that followed, downtown Los Angeles stood in for hundreds of other cities. Now, visitors to Los Angeles are apt to find themselves in the middle of a movie or television shoot, even downtown; sometimes it seems *especially* downtown. Not long ago Arnold Schwarzenegger's action pic *End of Days* closed down several intersections on a Monday morning, causing a horrendous rush-hour traffic jam. Production crews usually try to schedule long street shoots on weekends to avoid that problem.

A few summers ago the *Godzilla* crew spent 22 nights shooting in the streets downtown. If you recall the opening sequence of *Armageddon* and the meteors of molten rock plunging into the heart of Manhattan, that was really Fourth and Main streets. You can orient yourself by the Barclay Hotel, which was prominently displayed in the background. Another shoot that tied traffic in knots occurred when three blocks of Main Street were closed to recreate 1940s Los Angeles for *Devil in a Blue Dress*.

The AOL/Time Warner post-Grammy party held at Los Angeles Center Studios attracted 2,500 guests.

A new film studio downtown, the **Los Angeles Center Studios**, the first built in the area for at least 50 years, is just west of the Harbor Freeway (110) between 4th and 6th streets. In the few years it has been open, several movies, including *Charlie's Angels* and *Bounce* were shot here, and principal photography was done for *Planet of the Apes*, plus the TV shows *The X-Files, The Huntress*, and *The Titans*. Because it is so handy, many of the companies filming on the streets downtown use this studio to run dailies and for pick-up shots. See *Studio Tours*, page 543, for more information.

The organized walking tours cover some of the studios' favorite sites to film; some places downtown have shown up in so many movies that they will probably seem familiar to you; see pages 88 through 94 for walking tour information.

In The Heart of Downtown

The **Alexandria Hotel**, at Fourth and Main streets, was *the* place to stay in the early movie-making era when Downtown was more important than Hollywood. Charlie

Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks and D.W. Griffith met here in 1919 to form their own movie-making organization, United Artists. The ballrooms are empty now – even the Palm Court with its stained Tiffany glass ceiling – and stars come into the lobby only to shoot pictures, anything from *Seven* to *American's Most Wanted* to music videos by the likes of Amy Grant and Fiona Apple.

Sarah Bernhardt and Enrico Caruso stayed in the once-elegant Alexandria Hotel.

The **Biltmore Hotel**, at Fifth and Olive streets, was at the heart of filmdom's social life all during the 1920s, and is still the most elegant hotel downtown, even amidst all the modern tower hotels surrounding it. It has been a favorite place for movie-makers to shoot since it was built. You might recognize scenes from dozens of movies as you stroll through its opulent lobbies (see page 69 for more about the Biltmore).

The **Bradbury Building**, at 304 South Broadway, has been especially attractive to makers of films noir. Consider *Chinatown*, *Wolf,* and *Murder in the First.* In the 1976 TV series *City of Angels*, Wayne Rogers played a 1930s Los Angeles gumshoe who had his office here. And Harrison Ford searched the building for 21st-century "replicants" in *Blade Runner.*

Farther downtown is a bar called **Torchy's**, at 218½ Fifth Street, where a big scene in *48 HRS.*, with Eddie Murphy, was shot. A few years ago a part of *Condor* was shot there.

The **Rosslyn Hotel**, 111 Fifth Street, opened during the last century as an elegant lodge; now it is sadly reduced in stature. But it had the title role in the movie *The Million Dollar Hotel*, starring Mel Gibson. The name referred to the "Million Dollar" sign, which still stands on the hotel.

In the futuristic film *Armageddon*, there is a sequence in a lavish strip club with 14-foot chandeliers, a crystal fountain and marble fish statuary. None of it was built on a set; it was the lush Louis XIV interior of the **Los Angeles Theater**, at 615 South Broadway. Charlie Chaplin put up more than $1 million to build the theater to premiere *City Lights*. The theater closed in 1994 when the street fell on hard times. But then it began a new life, showing up in films instead of merely screening them. Up to 170 production days a year are shot here, including features, music videos and commercials.

The nine-story **Pacific Electric Building**, at 6th and Main streets, opened in 1905 as the downtown hub of the Red Cars, the largest inter-urban rail system in the world until it shut down in 1953. Now it is used almost entirely as a film location. The long hallways with marble wainscoting evoke countless past noir films; surely Philip Marlowe is still behind one of the frosted glass office doors. On the third floor of the building is the space used as the detectives' headquarters in *Seven* and, later, in *L.A. Confidential*. On the fifth floor is the apartment set from *Grace of My Heart*. There is the chemistry lab from *Paulie*, and *Fame L.A.* was shot in the loft, which was later taken over for several weeks for the shooting of *Face/Off*. Unfortunately, the building is closed to the public. There is one reason to visit it, though – **Cole's P.E. Buffet**, on the ground floor (see page 80).

SCENES YOU MIGHT HAVE SEEN

Do you recall Ron Rifkin dangling by his ankles over Main Street from the P.E. Building in *L.A. Confidential*? Or New York cabs whizzing in and out of the building's garage for *Godzilla?*

If you had walked down **Hill Street** at night a few years ago, it's likely that you would have seen the Second Street Tunnel filled with hysterical extras fleeing alien invasions for *Independence Day*, or scenes from *Con Air* or *The X-Files* being filmed.

The tunnel under the Subway Terminal Building has water dripping down mossy stalagmites in the dank darkness – perfect for MTV videos.

The **Subway Terminal Building**, 345 South Hill Street, is where we used to board the Red Cars for Hollywood. The trip started here through a long underground tunnel. The building's beautiful lobby is well preserved and is always included on architectural tours; you might recognize the tunnel from *Primal Fear*, *Absolute Power* or *Escape from L.A.*

South of Downtown

The **Variety Arts Center**, at 940 South Figueroa Street, is dedicated to film and entertainers. It houses the Earl Carroll Lounge, the W.C. Fields Bar, the Masquers Theatre and the Roof Garden Ballroom, where scenes were shot for *Copacabana*. The Ed Wynn Bar & Lounge was used for TV's *Highway to Heaven*. You might have seen various parts of the center in *Cagney & Lacey*, *Falcon Crest* and *Murder, She Wrote*.

The ***Herald Examiner*** **Building**, at 11th Street and Broadway, has been closed for years now since the newspaper ceased publication. But it is still busy, its newsroom used as the setting in countless movies, including *Babylon 5*, *Baywatch Nights*, *Unsolved Mysteries* and *The Usual Suspects*.

The **LA Convention Center**, at Figueroa and Pico, has masqueraded as everything from a hospital to a futuristic lair and (not surprisingly, since it was the scene of the 2000 Democratic Convention) as a political stomping ground; the doors of *Chicago Hope* were actually the Pico Street entrance of South Hall. Hundreds of film crews are drawn to the building's many aspects, and two or three productions a month are filmed here. The high-tech look and striking towers were the villain's headquarters in Sylvester Stallone's *Demolition Man*. In *Jade* it is the lobby windows you see. The scene in *The Net* in which someone is thrown from a catwalk was filmed in the exhibit hall. For *Showgirls* a boat show was staged. The exterior is seen in *Heat*. The center has also been seen in *Escape from L.A.*, *Message in a Bottle*, *My Fellow Americans* and the *Power Rangers* movie.

South of the Freeways

Although much of Los Angeles' Downtown is contained between the Harbor and Santa Monica freeways (I-110 and I-10), there are sights to see beyond those boundaries. **Olympic Auditorium**, built in 1925 at 1801 South Grand Avenue at 18th Street, is just south of I-10; the auditorium attracted many celebrities on fight nights during the 1920s

and '30s. The fight scenes for the films *Requiem for a Heavyweight* and *Rocky* were shot here, and many others before and since.

There has been a **Patriotic Hall** on Figueroa near 18th Street since the original was built in 1886 to honor the Grand Army of the Republic, a Civil War veterans group. The current 10-story building dates from 1926. During World War II, Hollywood's biggest stars, like Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour, entertained the troops in the Hall's main auditorium. That same stage, with a huge US flag backdrop, was used for the opening scene of *Patton*, starring George C. Scott. Patriotic Hall's 10-story staircase was used in Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo*. The hall has been seen in more than 300 films, including *Heat*, *Iron Eagle*, *Native Son*, *Stand and Deliver* and *The Wedding Planner*. The final scene of *Flashdance* was filmed in the building's Nimitz Room.

The **University of Southern California** is next to Exposition Park, sprawling east to west between Figueroa and Vermont and north to south from Exposition to Jefferson. USC is where Dustin Hoffman earned his college degree in *The Graduate*. The school was also featured in *Forrest Gump*, *A League of Their Own* and *Young Frankenstein*.

North of Downtown

North of LA's Historic Core are the Civic Center, Olvera Street, Chinatown and Little Tokyo neighborhoods. Some of the buildings in these neighborhoods have been filmed countless times over the years. One building, the 12-story Beaux Arts-style **Spring Street Towers** at 650 South Spring, was used for scenes in *Fatal Vision*, *Prizzi's Honor* and *St. Elmo's Fire*, plus episodes of *Cagney & Lacey*, *Matlock*, *Hill Street Blues* and *Hardcastle & McCormick*. The massive **US District Court Building**, at 312 Spring Street, became the "Armed Forces Public Information Office" in *War of the Worlds*, and was a court building in *Oh, God! Book II*.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The **Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Building** (the Criminal Courts Building), at 210 West Temple Street, was the site of the Heidi Fleiss and O.J. Simpson cases in the 1990s. It was named for the first woman admitted to the state's first law school; she was also the first woman admitted to the bar in California, the first woman to serve as a deputy district attorney in Los Angeles County, and a founder of our public defender system.

At 26 stories, **City Hall**, 200 North Spring Street, dominated Los Angeles' downtown skyline when it opened in 1927 and for years thereafter. Surely it is the most recognizable city hall in the world, having appeared in hundreds of movies and TV series. It was a stand-in for the Vatican in the TV miniseries *The Thorn Birds*. It served as the Daily Planet building in the 1950s series *Superman*, it was destroyed by the Martians in 1953's *War of the Worlds*, but showed up later in *Seems Like Old Times*, *Dragnet*, *48 HRS.*, *Ricochet* and *The Jimmy Hoffa Story*, to name a few.

There was a 1950 movie about Union Station. It was called – Union Station.

Although it was built in 1939, visitors are still awestruck by the interior of **Union Station**, at 800 North Alameda just east of Olvera Street, with its soaring ceiling, black walnut beams and 3,000-pound chandeliers. Among the films shot here are *The Way We Were*, *To Live and Die in L.A.*, *Bugsy*, *L.A. Confidential* and *True Confessions*, based on one of Los Angeles' most famous unsolved crimes, the Black Dahlia murder case.

🕮 HISTORIC NOTE

Union Station's most famous moment has become an enduring Los Angeles legend. In 1939 the city's flamboyant district attorney, Buron Fitts, sent a deputy to meet the arriving Mae West, with instructions to give her a kiss, saying "This is from Buron." Mae replied, "Is that a gun in your pocket, or are you just glad to see me?"

Along the Los Angeles River

The cement bed of the Los Angeles River where it circles around the northeast side of downtown has been used as a location for film and television. One well-known scene was the car race sequence with John Travolta in *Grease*, which took place between the 6th Street and 4th Street viaducts on the west side of the riverbed. The same location was used in the comedy picture *The Gumball Rally*, and in episodes of *Moonlighting*, *Hunter* and *CHiPs*. While you are there, take a look at the tunnel under the 6th Street Viaduct. That is where the giant mutated ants swarmed in *Them!* (1954), and it was used for various frights in *The Annihilator*, *The Oldest Rookie* and *Moonlighting* (again). In *Volcano* you will notice it is quick-thinking Angelenos who guide the lava into the river channel and save the city!

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The Los Angeles River is at present a 58-mile-long concrete-lined ditch. For years, the group Friends of the River has tried to do something about it and, at last, parts of the city government have joined in to begin to restore the riverbed and construct parks and bike paths along its banks.

Best Places to Stay

Paul, if the honeymoon doesn't work out, let's not get divorced. Let's kill each other.
Let's have one of the maids do it. I hear the service here is wonderful.
– Jane Fonda and Robert Redford, *Barefoot in the Park*

Hotels

Most of the national chains are represented downtown. Keep in mind that hotel rates here, at least downtown, are lower in summer and higher in winter. At the big chain hotels they can vary daily. A room might be $140 for Wednesday night, $170 on Thursday and back to $140 Friday. It's also worthwhile to ask about senior rates, if that designation applies to you. A few hotels marked with stars have strong, long-running connections to the industry.

WILSHIRE GRAND
930 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90017
☎ 213-688-7777, fax 213-612-3989
www.wilshiregrand.com
Moderate-Expensive

This big, 900-room hotel attracts large numbers of Asian guests. The Wilshire Grand has two specialty restaurants: **Kyoto**, a Japanese tempura and sushi bar; and **Seoul Jung**, which features Korean barbeque, as well as **Cardini** for Italian food, and **City Grill** for American cuisine. For those who prefer to dine in-room, there is 24-hour service. Other amenities include a swimming pool (open 24 hours), a hydrotherapy pool, retail shops and a car rental desk.

The accommodations price scale can be found on page 39.

★★ FIGUEROA HOTEL

939 South Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90015
☎ 213-627-8971, 800-421-9092, fax 213-689-0305
Moderate

LA's finest hotel in the 1870s was the Pico House, which still stands on the old Plaza, in need of restoration.

Built in the 1920s in the Spanish style, with hand-painted furniture, wrought iron beds and ceiling fans in most rooms. There are refrigerators in the rooms, a pool and hot tub, spa and exercise room, concierge and, what is unusual and a money-saver, free parking. The hotel also has two bars and a dining room. We hesitated at first to stick those stars by the name of this hotel, which has certainly never been an attraction for celebrities before. But Staples Center, the big new downtown arena for sports and concerts, is nearby and the Figueroa Hotel seems to be attracting some who want to party afterward. Following a recent concert, for example, Keanu Reeves and Depeche Mode showed up to keep the good times going.

HYATT REGENCY LOS ANGELES

711 South Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017
☎ 213-683-1234, 800-233-1234, fax 213-629-3230
Moderate

The Hyatt is in the middle of things, and within walking distance to everywhere downtown, and there are first-class views from the upper floors of this tall building. The hotel has two restaurants – **The Grill** is the good one – and a karaoke lounge with, they tell us though we haven't counted, 3,000 Japanese and American CDs. There are no-smoking floors, a concierge and a separate concierge floor, room service, and an exercise room.

OMNI LOS ANGELES

251 South Olive Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
☎ 213-617-3300, fax 213-617-3399
www.omnihotels.com
Moderate

The Omni Hotel overlooks California Plaza and its open-air concerts and entertainment in summer.

The sleek, Asian-accented Omni is near the top of Bunker Hill, next to California Plaza. Rooms offer panoramic views, and have telephones in the bathrooms, with a sepa-

rate bath and shower in most; robes; and 24-hour room service. There is an outdoor swimming pool, and fitness facilities. The **Grand Café** serves California cuisine, and the **Angels Flight Lounge** has piano music every night. Close to the Music Center and MOCA (the Museum of Contemporary Art).

★ REGAL BILTMORE HOTEL

506 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90071
☎ 213-612-1575; 800-245-8673; fax 213-612-1628
www.millennium-hotels.com
Moderate-Expensive

When the Biltmore was built in 1923 it was the most elegant of Los Angeles' hotels. A recent multi-million-dollar renovation has made sure that it still is. The 11-story hotel occupies most of the block between Olive and Grand, from Fifth to Sixth streets. The main entrance is now on Grand, but the original, one-floor-lower Olive Street lobby exiting onto Pershing Square is opulently done, with handsome ceiling paintings.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The **Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences** was dreamed up in the Biltmore during a 1927 entertainment industry banquet. An award statue was sketched on a napkin and a name penciled in: Oscar.

Pershing Square is the last remaining public parcel of the original Spanish land grant on which Downtown Los Angeles is built.

The architectural style is Italian Renaissance. There are over 600 rooms, including 55 suites, with 24-hour room service. The Health Club ($7 per usage) offers all services, including a pool. The eight places to eat and drink range from casual (a big sports bar with complimentary snacks and moderately priced food, plus a deli and a bakery with coffee) to a *ristorante* with Italian and California cuisine; try **Sai Sai** for Japanese food or **Bernard's Bistro** for modern French and continental dinners (oddly, Bernard's hasn't been appreciated lately in the local press for its fine food and good service).

Forget the hotel's formal name – it has always been known simply as The Biltmore.

The hotel's very popular **Gallery Bar**, always crowded after downtown's offices empty out at 5pm, showcases photos from the 1920s and '30s depicting Academy Award ceremonies held at the Biltmore. Next to it is the **Cognac Room**, open from 4:30pm to 1:45am, with a piano tinkling from 7pm.

THE BILTMORE IN FILM

The number of feature films shot partially at the Biltmore is mind-boggling; we counted 128 just since 1974, and there must have been hundreds more before they started keeping track. We know part of *Vertigo* was set here way back when. Some pics used the hotel's interiors so pervasively that you easily recognize parts of the Biltmore when you look at *True Lies* and *Beverly Hills Cop*. Other films with scenes shot at the Biltmore are *Chinatown*, *A Star is Born*, *Rocky III*, *Pink Panther*, *Misery*, *Bugsy*, *The Bodyguard*, *The Nutty Professor*, *Independence Day*, *Escape From L.A.*, *Message in a Bottle*, *13 Days*, *What Women Want*, *Blow*, *Ocean's Eleven*, *Deeds*, *Spider-Man* and *Stuart Little 2*.

There have been 94 weekly episodic television shows shot at least partially in the hotel; some, like *Kojak*, *Cagney & Lacey*, *Murder, She Wrote* and *The West Wing*, have used the hotel as a location many times. A few of the others were, over the years since 1975, *McMillan and Wife*, *Columbo*, *The Bionic Woman*, *Charlie's Angels*, *Knots Landing*, *Dynasty*, *Hill Street Blues*, *Matlock*, *L.A. Law*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, *Chicago Hope*, *ER*, *NYPD Blue*, *JAG*, *Judging Amy*, *Ally McBeal* and *Providence*.

Scenes for half-a-dozen mini-series, including *Rich Man, Poor Man* and *Roots* were shot here. The Biltmore has also been the scene of dozens of movie-of-the-week specials and shows for cable and pay-per-view and, what we are all most likely to have seen, over 50 commercials.

HISTORIC NOTE

Seven US Presidents have been Biltmore guests: Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush and Bill Clinton. Other notable guests have included Princess Margaret and the Duke of Kent, Eleanor Roosevelt, Howard Hughes, Mary Pickford, John Wayne and Barbra Streisand.

★ **THE WESTIN BONAVENTURE**
404 South Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071
☎ 213-624-1000, 800-228-3000
Moderate-Expensive

Instantly recognizable because of its appearance in so many films and television shows, the Westin Bonaventure's tower glows against Los Angeles' nighttime skyline with a dozen glass elevators sliding ceaselessly up and down the outside of its 35 stories – a spectacular urban sight. Of its 1,354 guest rooms, 135 are suites. There is a 9,000-square-foot spa, a half-acre garden deck with a 50x100-foot heated pool, a running track and a health, tennis and fitness center next door reached by a sky bridge. The Bonaventure has 19 different places to eat, including fine dining, fast dining, coffee bars, cocktail lounges, a chowder bar and a micro-brewery, plus 24-hour room service.

Four US Presidents have stayed at the Bonaventure, along with countless celebrities, including Elizabeth Taylor and Bob Hope.

For fantastic views of the city, try dining on the top floors of the Bonaventure. On the 35th floor is **L.A. Prime**, featuring steaks, Maine lobster and seafood; one floor down is the revolving **BonaVista Lounge**, which makes a full revolution every hour for a 360° view, ranging from the San Gabriel Mountains to Hollywood and the ocean.

The Bonaventure Brewing Co. has live jazz Saturday nights.

Before the hotel even opened in 1976, the sci-fi thriller *Logan's Run* was shot in the six-story atrium, which has been the setting for many films since, including *Blue Thunder*, *Breathless*, *Final Analysis*, *Forget Paris*, *Heat*, *In the Line of Fire*, *Lethal Weapon II*, *Rain Man*, *Ruthless People*, *Strange Days*, *The Driver* and *True Lies.* On televi-

sion you may have seen the hotel in *General Hospital*, *L.A. Law*, *Moonlighting*, *Remington Steele*, *Starsky and Hutch*, *The Insiders*, *The Return of Mike Hammer* and *Wonder Woman*.

★★ WYNDHAM CHECKERS

535 South Grand Avenue (between Fifth and Sixth)
☎ 213-624-0000, 800-WYNDHAM, fax 213-626-9906
Contemporary American
Expensive

The Wyndham Checkers, Los Angeles' only small, European-style hotel, is a very good hotel with a central location; it is across the street from The Biltmore. Former President Nixon and Soviet Prime Minister Gorbachev met in the private library in 1992 to discuss Soviet/US relations. Since then, Stefanie Powers has shot several PBS specials here, and Ray Charles is a regular guest.

When the Checkers opened in the 1920s, the rates ranged from $2.50 to $7 per night.

In 1999 Carol Burnett lived in the penthouse suite during her three-month run in Stephen Sondheim's *Putting It Together* at the Ahmanson Theatre. At the end of long days of rehearsal and performances she would signal to Joe the Bartender for a Skyy Vodka martini to be sent up to her suite. Cher spends the day of every Grammy Awards Show in the penthouse suite with a load of costumes and hairpieces to prepare for the evening. Jim Carrey lived in the penthouse suite during the filming of *Man on the Moon*.

In 2000, Gwyneth Paltrow "checked in" to a typical exclusive Paris hotel in a lobby scene for *View from the Top*, then shot a scene in a suite redesigned with French provincial furniture and the Paris skyline depicted on canvas outside the window.

The hotel was built in the 1920s as The Mayflower, which explains the two carved ships embedded in the sides of the entrance. One is the *Mayflower*; the other is the *Santa Maria*, the first ship to follow the Pacific shores and discover California harbors. The exterior is modern with Spanish design elements; the lower three floors are especially striking in modeled stone. The hotel reached the 12-story height limit in effect at the time of its construction.

There is a very fine dining room (see Checkers Restaurant, page 75) and a lobby bar; 24-hour room service; a

rooftop spa with a lap pool; complimentary shoeshine; and complimentary limousine service to downtown.

Bed & Breakfast

INN AT 23RD
657 West 23rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90007
☎ 213-741-2200, 800-347-7512
Moderate

No movie stars stay here, but it is one of the best bargains in lodging, at least downtown. Compared to the rest of the hotels in the area this is a very small place, with only 13 suites. It is not centrally located; it is off by the University of Southern California (in fact there is a USC tram stop just outside the door). People who have work to do at the University, such as Jane Goodall, stay here. Living rooms are good-sized, with sofas and easy chairs, and big dining tables. There are also kitchens with microwaves, and private entrances off the garden. The room rate includes a big breakfast with ham and French toast, pancakes and eggs Benedict, and local phone calls are free.

Best Places to Eat

During one of my trips through Afghanistan, we lost our corkscrew. Had to live on food and water for several days.

– W.C. Fields, *My Little Chickadee*

Most Downtown hotels have at least one fine restaurant, and many visitors eat well without stirring out onto the streets. The reason there are so few really good free-standing restaurants here is that very few people, except for those in the handful of condos on Bunker Hill, actually live downtown. And those who drive downtown from elsewhere are going to the Music Center to see a play or Staples Center for a basketball game. The hotels depend on their captive audiences. An occasional celebrity may come in but, except for places open late enough for actors to drop in after shooting, don't count on it.

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

Fine Dining

CBS SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
700 North Spring Street
☎ 213-617-2323
Cantonese
Inexpensive-Moderate

Even though this is a Chinese seafood restaurant with a menu that would challenge a good Hong Kong restaurant in its scope, many do not come here for the straight seafood, but for something different: dim sum. Dim sum are in Canton what tapas are in Spain – small dishes to pick and choose from. Here, when the dim sum carts roll by the tables, you will see shrimp dumplings, crabmeat wrapped in bean curd, barbequed pork buns, heaps of shrimp, soup, barbequed meats and sweets. Each goes for $1.70 to $9. Dim sum is served only 8am-3pm, though CBS is open until 10pm. Regular meals emphasize fish and seafood. This is not in Chinatown itself, but a few blocks east.

MORTON'S OF CHICAGO
735 South Figueroa Street
☎ 213-553-4566
www.mortons.com
Steakhouse
Expensive

There are over 60 Morton's scattered around the country. The restaurant has a club-like atmosphere with mahogany paneling and leather banquettes. Morton's features prime aged beef; fish and seafood are flown in daily. Open for lunch Monday-Friday, 11:30am-2:30pm; dinner Monday-Saturday, 5:30-11pm; Sunday until 10pm; bar opens at 5pm. Valet parking.

CAFE PINOT
700 West 5th Street
☎ 213-239-6500
French-California
Expensive

The food is basically French, but with an emphasis on the use of fresh California produce, without making a religion

of it. The onions in the onion soup come from Bakersfield, for instance, but the porcini mushrooms in the salad made their way here from Europe. Entrées are very wide ranging. It is a good-looking place, basically a glass box sitting in the gardens of the Main Library, with the restaurant's patio verging on the greenery. Lunch is popular with the downtown business crowd; early dinners with pre-theater people (there is a free shuttle from Café Pinot to the Music Center).

Café Pinot is the only free-standing restaurant in downtown Los Angeles.

Café Pinot is open for lunch Monday-Friday, 11:30am-2:30pm; dinner daily, 5-9pm. There is a limited menu on weekdays in the afternoon between lunch and dinner. Valet parking is available on 5th Street at night; self-park at lunch around the corner on Flower Street (with validation, it's $3). If you are coming here on the Harbor Freeway, exit at 6th Street, go east to Olive, turn left, and left again on 5th Street.

★★ CHECKERS RESTAURANT

535 South Grand Avenue
☎ 213-891-0519
California cuisine
Expensive

This is one of the places people drive downtown for. It's in the Wyndham Checkers (page 72), across Grand Street from the Biltmore Hotel. The décor is blessedly peaceful and quiet. You can dine on the patio or inside in the handsome dining room; in either case the noise level is low and the food is very good. In fact, it was voted "Best Restaurant of 2001 in Downtown Los Angeles" by *LA Downtown News*, placed in the "Top 10 Restaurants in Los Angeles" by *Gourmet Magazine*, and praised as being "as good as it gets in Downtown Los Angeles" by *Zagat Guide 2000*. The hotel attracts celebrities, too, especially when they are shooting downtown or attending a performance at the Music Center. The food here is eclectic; you will recognize lots of Mediterranean flavors and Asian touches. We recommend the crab cakes with pancetta if they are on the menu. Breakfast served daily (hours vary); lunch Monday-Friday, 11:30am-1:30pm; dinner every night, 5:30pm-8:30pm.

CIUDAD
445 South Figueroa Street
Union Bank Plaza, Suite 100 (ground floor)
☎ 213-486-5171, fax 213-486-5172
www.ciudad-la.com
Latin American-Spanish
Moderate

If you ask for directions to Ciudad and are told it is at "5th and Fig," know that locally Fig means Figueroa Street.

You may have seen television's *Too Hot Tamales*' Mary Sue Milliken and Susan Feniger, the photogenic chefs whose show, in the '90s, made Mexican street food suddenly popular with the upscale crowd. They've also written a string of cookbooks, including *Mexican Cooking For Dummies*. Their place in Santa Monica, the Border Grill, became so popular with celebrities that they opened Ciudad downtown (in case you are Spanish-challenged, the name means "city"). This is a fun place; be ready to try something new, from menu items you would find in Havana, Rio, Lima, Buenos Aires, Lisbon and Barcelona.

The menu features authentic dishes Milliken and Feniger learned from cooks in Central and South America, such as Argentine empañadas, Puerto Rican tamales, and seared calamari Bilbao; they've also created new dishes with Latin ingredients. The colors on the walls and furniture must have been chosen because you can eat them all: avocado, pumpkin, lemon, and mocha; it is definitely a bright room. There is a full bar with American cocktails plus a wide selection of sipping rums (a three-rum sampler is $7). The wine list is heavy with wines from Spain, Chile and Argentina, as is fitting.

A free shuttle service runs from Ciudad to the Music Center or Staples Center – but you must make reservations.

Weekday lunchtime is usually crowded (Ciudad is not open for lunch on weekends), with the patio full. Check out the big Cuban sandwiches made with house-baked buns stuffed with pork, ham and cheese. Early on Friday nights, when the office workers celebrating TGIF throng the lively bar munching *cuchifritos* (little snacks), it is usually packed and too noisy to carry on an intelligible conversation. Other weeknights you don't have to worry about reservations.

This is definitely not a place haunted by celebrities, but the restaurant does cater meals for many of the film companies shooting downtown. Open for dinner every night; for lunch Monday-Friday from 11:30. Happy hour, Mon-

day-Friday, starts at 3pm and goes to 7pm. Parking at lunch for up to two hours is free in the Union Bank Plaza Garage with Ciudad validation. Other times it's $3 with validation; valet parking is available from 5pm for $3.50.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Los Angeles sprawls over 467 square miles and, with 3.6 million residents, is more populous than 25 states.

MON KEE'S SEAFOOD
679 North Spring Street
☎ 213-628-6717, 877-550-5010
Chinese seafood
Moderate

Lobster, clams with oyster sauce, a sizzling platter of shrimp with garlic sauce, both freshwater and saltwater fish, and all the soups and appetizers to lead up to them are here. Mon Kee's has been in business a long time, putting out what may be the best Chinese seafood in town. A very popular place. Open Sunday-Thursday, 11:30am-9:45pm; Friday and Saturday until 10:15pm.

NICK & STEF'S STEAKHOUSE
Wells Fargo Center
330 South Hope Street
☎ 213-680-0330
Steakhouse
Expensive

Entrées are 10 steaks and chops, plus one chicken and one lobster item, for a total of 12. Along with it are 12 starters and salads on the menu, 12 vegetables, 12 sauces, and 12 kinds of potatoes. Someone wanted everything to balance evenly. Located on Bunker Hill, just a few blocks from almost everywhere downtown, this place has the feel of a traditional steakhouse with lots of wood, deep booths and large, angular chairs. The beef, which is the main concern here, is dry-aged on the premises. Nick & Stef's is open for lunch Monday-Friday, 11:30am-2:30pm; and for dinner

Monday-Thursday, 5:30-9:30pm; Friday until 10:30; Saturday, 5-10:30pm; and Sunday, 5-9pm. Valet parking is available, or park under the big Wells Fargo building. The restaurant is up one flight.

★★ PACIFIC DINING CAR

1310 West Sixth Street
☎ 213-483-6000
Steakhouse
Expensive-Very Expensive

Pacific Dining Car was named the number one steakhouse on the West Coast, and among the top five in the nation, by Wine Spectator *magazine.*

Any place with Dining Car in its name sounds as if should be serving casual food. But this restaurant, in the same family since it opened in 1921, has grown beyond the original faux dining car into a memento-filled, mahogany-paneled affair, with a large and lush interior.

You will find prominent politicians here as well as showbiz celebrities, a tradition that goes way back. The baseball steak, for instance, a round, fat top sirloin, used to be named for Buddy Ebsen, who preferred it. We have promised we won't name names, to keep up the restaurant's age-old policy of protecting celebrities' privacy; except for Nicolas Cage, as it is well known that his father used to bring him here when he was a child and he still has the habit. Since it is one of the few restaurants open 24 hours daily, celebrities drop in after seeing a play at the Music Center, or following a late-night shoot on downtown streets.

Incidentally, a free shuttle bus is provided for those who want an early dinner before going to the Music Center or Staples Center to see the Lakers.

The menu is large, as is the selection of steaks: cowboy steak, a ribeye on the bone; T-bone; Delmonico; filet mignon; New York and Dining Car Steak, which is a narrow section from a New York cut. To go with it, one order of fried onion rings will feed four, and the Dining Car Potatoes are what Easterners call O'Brien potatoes, or so the waiter told us. Other dishes, including some seafood, are served, but the restaurant is primarily known for steaks and chops. Coming here for breakfast is a long-standing tradition, as you might guess from the hours it is served: weekdays, 11pm-11am; weekends, 11pm-4pm.

★ TIP

Pacific Dining Car is one of those restaurants where you are wise not to order all at once. Portions are so large that after eating soup and an appetizer you may discover you don't want an entrée after all.

★★ PROMENADE RISTORANTE

710 West First Street
Promenade Plaza
☎ 213-437-4937
Italian
Expensive

Placido Domingo, the tenor and artistic director of the Los Angeles Opera, is a fairly regular presence here when he is in town, along with celebrities dining before attending a play at the Music Center. Besides entertainment industry types, you will find the place filled at lunch on weekdays with judges, lawyers and jurors from the nearby courthouse. You will find the restaurant across from the Music Center and near the Civic Center on Bunker Hill.

The décor will not win any prizes, but if you are a fan of Italian cooking you have come to the right place. Owner Orazio Afrento may greet you at the door and tell you today's specialties on the way to your table. Last time we were there he recommended some seafood that he had picked out himself at the fish market that morning. Contrary to the trend at many Los Angeles restaurants, the portions here are not overwhelmingly large. You might want an *antipasti misti*, a mixed antipasto plate, for the table. It is a generous dish and you should enjoy trying the different delicacies while you are investigating the menu. As we write this the restaurant serves wine and beer, but does not have a full bar. Open for lunch, Monday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm; for brunch on Sunday, 11am-2pm; for dinner, Monday-Saturday, 5:30pm-10pm, and Sunday, 5-10pm. Park underneath.

At lunch, Promenade also serves the original Italian thin sandwiches called panini. The panino with molten provolone cheese and prosciutto inside is a classic.

Casual Dining

★★ COLE'S P.E. BUFFET

118 East Sixth Street
☎ 213-622-4090
French dipped sandwiches
Inexpensive

Cole's, which opened in 1908, is the oldest restaurant in Los Angeles, a few months older than Philippe (see page 81).

The restaurant's odd name refers to the Pacific Electric Railroad, the once-immense trolley system that linked all parts of the far-flung area together before the freeways. Cole's is located in what was the main terminal. When the trolley lines were dismantled in the 1950s, the café lost its supply of daily commuters, but the regulars kept coming back. It has always had a certain amount of fame because of the hundreds of movie and TV scenes shot here, including *The X-Files* and scenes in many episodes of the *NYPD Blue* television series. You might remember it from *L.A. Confidential* and the New Year's scene in *Forrest Gump*. Check out the photos of celebrities on the walls. Cole's is a popular spot for actors who drop in to eat after a shoot, and the upper floors of the otherwise unused P.E. Building have been used as a location for many movies and TV episodes. Food is served daily, 9am-7pm; the bar stays open later.

Cole's tables are built from the old LA Red Cars that ran on the trolley lines.

ORIGINAL PANTRY

877 South Figueroa Street
☎ 213-972-9279
Old-fashioned American
Inexpensive

The Original Pantry is ancient by Los Angeles' standards; it opened in 1924 and has been extremely popular ever since. In fact, it has never been without a paying customer since its opening day. Everyone knows about the Pantry and, though it seats only 84, it serves several thousand huge portions every day. You walk into a long, plain room that no decorator has ever messed with and order old-timey stews, roasts or chops. They have been making the same baked salmon all these years; the menu also features corned beef and cabbage. The entrées come with canned vegetables and a choice of mashed or fried pota-

toes. The Original Pantry is open 24 hours daily. Incidentally, The Pantry is owned by the ex-mayor.

No alcohol is served at either of the two Pantry restaurants, and no credit cards are accepted.

PANTRY BAKE & SANDWICH SHOPPE
875 South Figueroa Street
☎ 213-627-6879
Old-fashioned American, plus sandwiches
Inexpensive

When a vacancy opened up next door to the Original Pantry a dozen years ago, the owners opened a second place to take the pressure off the crowds at breakfast and lunchtime. It is a little brighter, with curtains on the windows, but the menu is about the same, except for added sandwiches on weekdays. And there are daily specials at both, dishes you are never going to find on the menu in the high-toned, upscale joints, things like liver and onions, franks and beans and Swiss steak. The Sandwich Shoppe is open daily, 6am-3pm.

PHILIPPE THE ORIGINAL
1001 North Alameda Street
☎ 213-628-3781
www.philippes.com
Inexpensive

Another old-time downtown café, Cole's on 6th Street, claims the French dip was invented there.

This is an old place, down by the railroad tracks and warehouses past Union Station. Philippe Mathieu, an emigré from Aix-en-Provence, opened it in 1908 as a deli that also sold sandwiches. It achieved fame in 1918 when he accidentally dropped a roll in a pan of roasting juices. The customer took it anyway and then came back the next day and asked that his sandwich be "dipped" again the same way. Philippe became known as the "Home of the French dipped sandwich."

A long French roll is dipped in gravy and a thick layer of meat is piled on. You add the homemade house mustard that is on every table, but watch out, it is hot! Try the coarsely grated coleslaw with its creamy dressing. The meat, either lamb, pork or turkey (pass on the ham), is all nicely moist. The turkey is a late addition, tacked on as a heart-healthy choice. Wines are inexpensive, and most are pretty good. From October through June there is apple pie for dessert. Breakfast always includes homemade dough-

Philippe's is a Los Angeles institution. It seems everyone has eaten here at least once, and a lot of people have made a lifelong habit of it.

nuts rolled in powdered sugar or cinnamon, crusty corned beef hash and eggs with a spicy salsa. And coffee is always 10¢ a cup!

Philippe has moved a couple of times, but nothing has really changed. The sawdust on the floor, the matter-of-fact waitresses behind the counter, some of whom have worked here for decades, and the long, shared tables are all part of the restaurant's long-standing appeal. Open every day, 6am-10pm.

Shop Till You Drop

I remember every detail – the Germans wore gray, you wore blue.

– Humphrey Bogart, *Casablanca*

Broadway

For a hundred years shopping meant Broadway, but that has not been the case since the 1960s. As the department stores closed and immigration, legal and illegal, from Mexico and points south greatly increased, Broadway recovered as a shopping mecca but with a decided difference. Now it is packed with stores – most of them small – all selling to the Latino trade. It most resembles a very busy shopping street in Mexico City. There are, however, a few specialized stores and areas where, though you may not see any celebrities, you might find something you can't get anywhere else.

★ TIP

Grand Central Market is a collection of at least 100 independent food stalls that extends from Broadway to Hill Street, just south of Third Street. It has been here for 75 years and is a great place to pick up casual meals to eat on the spot or take out.

Books, Maps & Music

CARAVAN BOOK STORE
550 South Grand Avenue
☎ 213-343-4772

Downtown was a thriving center for specialty bookstores from the 1920s to the '80s, but reduced foot-traffic in the neighborhood, combined with the arrival of the big chain stores, has eliminated the majority of independent shops. Caravan, one of the few survivors, first opened its doors more than 50 years ago, when this was booksellers' row. The store has a section on early movie history, with things like 1920s casting directories. If you are interested in learning more about the city, the store specializes in Western American History, which includes early Los Angeles and Southern California. You will also find books on travel, food, wine and antiques. Open Monday-Saturday, 11am-6pm.

THOMAS BROS. MAP STORE
521 West 6th Street
☎ 213-627-4018

Thomas Bros. sells maps for the traveler who really wants to know where he or she is at all times. Open Monday-Friday, 8:30am-6pm.

MUSIC MAN MURRAY
5055 Exposition Boulevard
☎ 323-734-9146

If you are interested in old records, or just in music, you will never find another place like Murray's. When you walk into this industrial-style building you are faced with around 200,000 records – even Murray is not sure how many are here – with another 200,000 or so in storage. Movie studios call here when they are looking for music they cannot find elsewhere, and Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and Mae West used to call for copies of their own records. Now, customers include Jason Alexander of *Seinfeld*, and Gene Wilder.

What is here? Classical, jazz, opera, Broadway shows, rock, pop, salsa, mariachi, marching bands, Yugoslavian music, Bohemian – with prices ranging from $3 to $2,000. You will find every Beatles album ever released, Bing Crosby, Herb Alpert and Paul Robeson; Frank Sinatra and Judy Garland almost fill a wall. Most of the inventory is on vinyl; a growing amount is on compact discs.

Fashion District

Shops with childrens' clothing are clustered on Pico, Julian and Wall streets.

Los Angeles is one of the greatest apparel resources in the country; manufacturers and wholesalers are concentrated in the Fashion District. Showrooms were traditionally open "to the trade only," but many wholesalers and manufacturers are now selling to the public; some are open to the public every day, some only on certain days. You can find samples and overstock at 20-50% below mall prices, though some shops, especially in Santee Alley, sell strictly retail. Within the 82-block Fashion District, 220 stores sell retail only, and 800 sell both wholesale and retail. Those that sell to the trade only will have signs stating their policy.

Every Saturday over 1,000 stores offer wholesale prices, 30% off retail, to the public.

The area of main interest to the general public stretches from 7th Street to Pico Boulevard, north to south, and from Main to San Pedro streets, west to east. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm for most stores. You'll need to take plenty of change for meters, or use paid parking lots. Lots closer to CaliforniaMart and Santee Alley are more expensive. A free trolley tour of the fashion district is offered on the last Saturday of the month. Call ☎ 213-488-1153. More information at www.fashiondistrict.org.

Marketplaces

CaliforniaMart, 9th and Main streets, is a 1,200-showroom fashion center and the district's showcase; the showrooms traditionally sell only to store buyers, who come from all over the country, especially to its lobby shops. Stylists come here weekly, many borrowing items for magazine photo shoots. CaliforniaMart is open Monday-Friday to the trade only, but opens to the public on the last Friday of each month for a sample sale and on select Saturdays

for special sales in the exhibit hall. For dates and times, contact ☎ 213-630-3600 or check online at www.californiamart.com. **New Mart**, though prominent on the Fashion District's Web site, is almost entirely devoted to the wholesale trade.

FOR FASHION DESIGN BUFFS

From mid-February through April the costumes from many of the previous year's films are displayed at the **Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising**, 919 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, ☎ 213-624-1200, in their annual Art of Motion Picture Costume Design Exhibit. Even though the costumes are selected months in advance, the choices usually line up with the Oscar nominations. The show also includes broader exhibits, such as "A Decade of Film Style." The collection can be viewed at the Fashion Institute's museum, Monday-Saturday, 10am-4pm. Admission free. Parking is available under the college building, entrance on 9th Street.

Santee Alley, Olympic Boulevard to 12th Street between Maple Avenue and Santee Street, is an outdoor market, a three-block bazaar. Some of everything is available, a lot of it at pretty good prices, but there is a big variety in quality. Nevertheless, it is fun, since most places allow bargaining. Most also prefer payment in cash, some will accept credit cards. Trendy club dresses are sold in Santee Alley for $7, T-shirts are three for $10. Costume designers with a small budget and a sitcom cast to dress each week flock here for bargains on up-to-the-minute fashions. Hollywood designers also shop the textile stores in the district for fabrics to make their own creations or to re-cover furniture. Costume jewelry is a big item here for music videos and album covers. Look for chain belts and rhinestone jewelry at discounted prices.

★ TIP

Watch clothing sizes: a large in Santee Alley is sometimes closer to a mall's small. And most of these marketplace shops do not have dressing rooms.

HUNGRY FROM ALL THAT SHOPPING?

The following places are handy spots to grab a bite near the Fashion District:

- **Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf**, 210 East Olympic Boulevard, No. 120, ☎ 213-749-5746.
- **Sam's Famous Deli**, 121 East 9th Street, ☎ 213-622-2008.
- CalMart's **food court** is near the 9th Street entrance, 110 East 9th Street.
- On the south side of CalMart is **Massimo Ristorante**, ☎ 213-689-4415, a full-service Italian restaurant serving lunch Monday-Friday till 3pm (the bar is open till 8pm).
- **Angelique's Café**, 840 South Spring Street at the fork between Spring and Main streets, ☎ 213-623-8698, is a French restaurant that you might recognize if you saw *Rush Hour*.
- Also handy is **Cole's P.E. Buffet**, at 118 East 6th Street (see page 80).

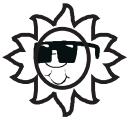
Jewelry District

Most of the tall buildings on **Hill Street** and **Broadway** between 5th and 8th streets are devoted solely to jewelry making; you'll find hundreds of jewelry manufacturers, wholesalers and retail shops, most above street level; Look for custom-made fine jewelry, precious stones and watches at discount prices. Most shops are open 10am-6pm, Monday-Saturday.

Toy District

If you have a little person back home and want to find a gift, this may be the place for you. Instead of one store like Toys "R" Us you can visit dozens of small shops, each one with a specialty, and pick and choose not just among a few toy guns or dozens of stuffed animals, but hundreds of different kinds, all in one place. You will find plush animals at both **David's Toys**, 346 South 4th Street, ☎ 213-680-8928, and at nearby **Fancy Zoo**, 340 South San Pedro Street, ☎ 213-680-0034; and babies' toys and strollers at **A-Mart Toys**, 305 East 4th Street, ☎ 213-628-1389. There are many other stores. The Toy District is located primarily along San Pedro and Los Angeles streets between 3rd and 6th. Hours for most stores are Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm. Parking is available at curbside meters or in paid parking lots.

Sunup to Sundown



Walks & Tours

There are quite a few downtown walks to choose from, guided and self-guided, none specifically associated with the movies except as they might incidentally pass through a place like the Regal Biltmore Hotel.

CARROLL AVENUE HOMES

A cluster of grand, still lived-in Victorian houses in the 1300 block of Carroll Avenue in Angelino Heights was the center for refined living in Old Los Angeles. Number 1345 is popularly known as the Haunted House; it was prominent in Michael Jackson's Thriller video. From Downtown, take Temple Street west to Edgeware Road, then turn right; Carroll is over the freeway and to the left.

Angels Walk

This non-profit group offers two 40- to 50-page booklets covering downtown walking tours that focus on architecture, history and culture; each of the walks takes about two hours, depending on the time spent lingering or lunching. The tour routes are designed with mass transit in mind so visitors can start and stop a walk at various points. Each booklet includes maps.

The first is ***Bunker Hill-Historic Core District***. This walk includes the unique, much-used-in-movies Bradbury Building; the Million Dollar Theater where premieres were first staged as spectacles; Grand Central Market; the Museum of Contemporary Art; the familiar-from-movies Westin Bonaventure Hotel and more. It also includes the Victor Clothing Co. building on South Broadway, where a 100-foot-tall mural depicts Anthony Quinn in his Oscar-winning role as *Zorba the Greek*. The second, ***Union Station/El Pueblo/Little Tokyo/Civic Center***, takes you to Olvera Street and the oldest part of Los Angeles, plus Chinatown, Little Tokyo, and the Music Center.

To have one or both of the booklets sent to you, call Angels Walk LA, ☎ 213-683-0080; or write to them at 304 South Broadway, Suite 494, Los Angeles 90013. The booklets are free; shipping is $4 for one title or $6 for both. The booklets are sometimes available at the Los Angeles Public Library, 630 West 5th Street, ☎ 213-228-7000 (check at the information desk inside the 5th Street entrance; library hours are Monday-Thursday, 10am-8pm; Friday and Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday 1-5pm).

Los Angeles Conservancy Walks

The Conservancy is currently attempting to preserve the historic Ambassador Hotel on Wilshire Boulevard.

The Los Angeles Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and revitalizing Greater Los Angeles' architectural heritage. They have organized several docent-led walks of the downtown area that are very popular with both visitors and residents. Among the tours offered are **Pershing Square Landmarks**, with architectural styles from Victorian to art deco; **Broadway Theaters**, covering the largest concentration of pre-World

War II movie houses in America; **art deco** architecture walks; **Little Tokyo**; the glamorous **Biltmore Hotel**; **Angelino Heights**, one of Los Angeles' first suburbs; and **Union Station**, the last of the great railway stations built in America, a combination Spanish Colonial revival and art deco style. Self-guided tour literature is also available. Most tours cost $8 and begin at 10am; they last about 2½ hours, with a few exceptions. Days vary, so call or check their Web site for the complete schedule. No strollers or young children are permitted on any of the tours. Advance reservations are necessary; ☎ 213-623-CITY (2489), or reserve on the Web at www.laconservancy.org (click on "Tours" at the top of the page).

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The 1931 **LA Theater** was decades ahead of its time, with a glass-fronted "crying room" for parents with noisy children, and a pre-televison form of sound and light transmission that simultaneously showed the picture on the auditorium screen and on mini-screens in the downstairs lobby.

Music Center Tour

During the summer, the Music Center offers free one-hour tours of the city's three primary theaters: the **Dorothy Chandler Pavilion**, the **Ahmanson Theatre** and the **Mark Taper Forum**. Highlights include artwork, costumes and photos of theatrical events. Tours are also available in French and Spanish. ☎ 213-972-7483.

The Bradbury Building

The Bradbury Building at 304 South Broadway has been Los Angeles' architectural gem for over 100 years, and none of the new buildings going up now are threatening its standing. It opened in 1894, predating motion pictures,

and filmmakers have taken advantage of this unique structure from the start.

Lewis Leonard Bradbury, who came West from Maine in the 1850s, struck it rich in the Mazatlan (Mexico) gold mines. He married 20-years-younger Simona Martinez and ended up six children later in a 50-room Victorian mansion on Bunker Hill. (Much altered Bunker Hill – what is left of it – is between Hill and Figueroa, and Temple and 5th streets.)

FILM FACTOID

The headquarters of Hal Roach's film company was later in Leonard Bradbury's Bunker Hill showplace, where he made two comedies, *Just Nuts* (1915), and *Haunted Spooks* (1920), both starring Harold Lloyd.

Wyman took his concept of the building's design from Looking Backward, *a novel by Edward Bellamy that imagined the 21st-century world.*

Bradbury wanted to construct a building for his office that would still be modern 100 years later. He improbably hired a $5-a-week draftsman to design it. George Herbert Wyman, like Frank Lloyd Wright with no academic architectural training, at first turned down the offer, but then received a message on an Ouija board: "Take the Bradbury assignment. It will make you famous." It did.

In the design of the five-story, utterly unorthodox masterpiece, the architect used Italian marble and Mexican floor tiles to beautiful effect, along with the largest plate-glass windows in Los Angeles. But the focal point is the stunning interior courtyard under a towering glass roof that bathes all the floors with soft, filtered sunlight.

The inside of the Bradbury Building's is probably the most often-filmed interior in Los Angeles.

Most ingenious were the delicate water-powered birdcage elevators. When excavation uncovered a spring underneath the building, instead of capping it, the water was used to supply tenants with steam heat and to power the elevators. Water pumped into a suspended cylinder made the elevator descend. When water was released, the cage ascended. These days it is operated with a hydraulic jack and electric pump. The Bradbury Building is open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, and Saturday, 9am-4pm. You can

wander through and see it all, or join the Los Angeles Conservancy's two-hour Pershing Square Tour, which includes the Bradbury Building, every Saturday at 10am (see LA Conservancy tours, pages 88-89).

El Pueblo & Olvera Street

North of the Civic Center and just west of Union Station, between Alameda and North Main, is the site of El Pueblo de Los Angeles, where the city began. In 1781, 11 families from Mexico put up mud huts. The area gradually became the core of the new city. Look for the **Old Plaza Firehouse**, 134 Paseo de la Plaza, Los Angeles' first fire station, which dates from 1884. It has been restored as a museum, and is open Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-3pm. The nearby **Avila Adobe**, 10 Olvera Street, is the oldest home in Los Angeles, built in 1818 by Francisco Avila, who was mayor. Open daily, 9am-4pm. Free tours.

Just off the plaza is **Olvera Street**. Its shops and stalls offer a wild assortment of souvenirs. Originally named Wine Street because of the nearby vineyards, it was eventually abandoned; by the early 1900s it had become a trash-filled alley. In 1930, a group led by Christine Sterling, who became known as "the mother of *Calle Olvera,*" created what could be called Hollywood's idea of an open-air Mexican market. It has been a success ever since, and is usually filled with tourists and locals who come here to eat at the many restaurants. The street has been featurd in many films, including *Death Wish II*, with Charles Bronson; *True Confessions*, with Robert De Niro; and TV episodes of *CHiPs* and *Lou Grant*, among others.

Olvera Street was named for Judge Agustín Olvera, a member of one of the area's founding families.

In 1932 the Mexican Revolutionary soldier, communist and painter David Alfaro Siqueiros was commissioned to paint an outdoor mural in Olvera Street with the theme "Tropical America." He accomplished that, but included within the painting an additional theme, the crucifixion of a Mexican peon by American imperialism. The mother of Calle Olvera quickly covered the painting over with whitewash. The mural by Siqueiros, one of the great painters of North America, is there still – neglected, boarded over – restorable, but with no money in sight to do the work.

HISTORIC NOTE

Look for the bricks in the pavement on Olvera Street. They mark the path of the *zanja madre*, the mother ditch that was the city's first water system when it was built in 1781.

Olvera Street merchants sell Mexican and Indian artifacts, leather goods, jewelry, clothing, art and lots of kitsch.

Get more information at the **Olvera Street Visitors Center**, located in the **Sepúlveda House**, 622 North Main Street, ☎ 213-628-1274; open Monday-Saturday, 10am-3pm; or visit the street's Web site at www.olvera-street.com. The building, dating from 1887, shows a combination of Mexican and Anglo styles; the period kitchen and bedroom are exhibited. There is an 18-minute film on the early history of Los Angeles.

Little Tokyo

Before 1942, Little Tokyo took in more than three square miles of boarding houses, mom-and-pop markets and Buddhist temples. After the end of World War II the residents returned from the internment camps but they gradually left downtown for the suburbs. These days Little Tokyo consists of only nine blocks, though Los Angeles as a whole still has the largest Japanese community outside of Japan.

Little Tokyo is located between 1st and 4th streets, Los Angeles Street (three blocks east of Broadway) and Alameda Street. In 1982 a killer helicopter in *Blue Thunder* bombed the Far East Café with special effects. Earlier, in 1975, the same café (which served Chinese food) was used as a location for a scene in *Farewell, My Lovely*, adapted from Raymond Chandler's novel, in which hero Philip Marlowe was having lunch when "a dark shadow fell over my chop suey."

The **Little Tokyo Walk** takes you along 1st Street between San Pedro Street and Central Avenue, where 13 buildings have been designated as national historic landmarks. Brass plaques embedded in the sidewalk tell the

story of six decades of Japanese-American life from 1890s immigration through World War II internment camps.

The **Higashi Hongwangi Temple**, 8505 East 3rd Street, is an authentic Buddhist temple with a spectacular golden altar. The **Japanese Village Plaza**, a few blocks away on 1st street between San Pedro and Central, includes Japanese restaurants, food stores and gift shops.

Guided Tours are conducted Monday-Friday between 10am and 3pm, by the **Little Tokyo Business Association**. Tours last 1½ hours and visit the **Japanese American Cultural & Community Center**, the **James Irvine Japanese Garden**, **Buddhist Temple & Sanctuary**, the Japanese Village Plaza, and **Weller Court**. The fee is $1 for ages 14 years and up; 50¢ for younger children. Reservations are required; ☎ 213-628-8268 or fax 213-625-0943.

FILM GLOSSARY

Key light – The primary source of a subject's illumination.

Chinatown

LA's original Chinatown had almost 1,000 inhabitants, almost all of whom were laborers; the district was torn down in the 1930s to make way for the construction of Union Station. A few prosperous Chinese businessmen built **New Chinatown**, bordered by Alpine, North Spring and Yale streets and Bamboo Lane, in 1938. Today, many of the shops rely predominately on tourists. As many as 10,000 Chinese, mostly the elderly and the rawest newcomers, live in the area; authentic markets and restaurants are found on North Spring Street.

The 1974 movie Chinatown *had nothing to do with Chinatown and was not filmed here.*

There is an ornamental pagoda-style gateway on **Gin Ling Way** at 900 North Broadway; nearby is a statue of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, who liberated China from the Manchu dynasty in 1911. The **Chinatown** branch of the Los Angeles Public Library, at 536 West College Street, has a good collection of books in Chinese and English.

Guided walking tours are offered by the **Chinatown Tourist's Center** about once a month on a Sunday. The tour lasts 1½ hours and is followed by a show featuring acrobats, and a brunch. The fee for the tour only is $10 for adults; $5 for children under 11. For the tour, show and brunch the cost is $42 for adults; $28 for children under 11. For AAA members it is $33 for adults; $17 for children under 11; Phone for reservations, ☎ 323-721-0774, www.chinatowncenter.com.

Several new art galleries, some with good contemporary art rather than Chinese tourist kitsch, are located on **Chung King Road**, off Gin Ling Way between Hill and Yale streets. You will often find the biggest crowds in the evenings.

Winery Tour

San Antonio Winery, Los Angeles' oldest (and now its only) winery, is located at 737 Lamar Street, ☎ 323-223-1401, www.sanantoniowinery.com. Free tours are offered daily, every hour on the hour, 11am-4pm. The winery is not far from the Alameda/Union Street Station exit off the Hollywood Freeway (101); call for specific directions or check the map on the winery's Web site.

MTA Public Art

Art for Rail Transit. A self-guided tour highlights the public art of the downtown subway stations. ☎ 213-922-4ART (4278).

Farmers' Markets

In most states any place can call itself a farmers' market, but in California you must actually be a farmer, baker or beekeeper, and be certified, to sell directly to the public at specific times and places. (The famous Farmers' Market at Third and Fairfax started out as a real one in the 1930s but became a regular commercial enterprise.)

St. Agnes Church Farmers' Market, Adams Boulevard and Vermont Avenue, is open Wednesdays, June-August, 1:15-6pm; and September-May, 2-5:30pm.

735 South Figueroa Street, Thursdays and Fridays, 11am-4pm.

The newest market is **Mercado La Paloma**, 3655 Grand Avenue, Saturdays, 2-5pm. South of Jefferson Boulevard, entrance for parking is on Hope Street.

Museums

The **California African-American Museum**, Exposition Park, 600 State Drive (between Figueroa and 39th Street), ☎ 213-744-7432 or 892-1333, www.caam.ca.gov. At press time, the museum was undergoing a $3 million renovation and scheduled to reopen in early 2003.

California Science Center, 700 State Drive, Exposition Park (next to the LA Memorial Coliseum, between Figueroa and Vermont streets), ☎ 323-SCIENCE (724-3623), www.casciencectr.org. Hands-on and interactive exhibits on environment, aerospace, math, energy and health. Open daily, 10am-5pm. Free.

Japanese American National Museum, 369 East First Street (a former Buddhist Temple), Little Tokyo, ☎ 213-625-0414 or 800-461-5266, www.janm.org. Changing exhibits are dedicated to the Japanese-American experience. Open Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-5pm, Thursday until 8pm; closed Mondays and major holidays. Adults, $6; seniors, $5; students six-18, $3; children five and under, free.

Latino Museum of History, Art & Culture, 112 South Main Street, ☎ 213-626-7600. A look at the history of Latin American culture. Open Wednesday and Friday-Sunday, 10am-4pm.

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), 250 South Grand Avenue at California Plaza; and **MOCA at the Geffen Contemporary Art Museum**, 152 North Central Avenue, ☎ 213-626-6222, www.moca.org. Both locations are dedicated to contemporary art. Open Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm; Thursday, 11am-8pm; closed on major holidays. Admission for adults, $8; for seniors 65+ and students, $5; for children 12 and under, free (one admis-

sion fee covers both MOCA locations if you visit on the same day). Free to all on Thursdays, 5-8pm. Baby strollers and wheelchairs are available at no cost; the museums are handicapped-accessible.

Museum of Neon Art, 501 West Olympic Boulevard (entrance on Grand), ☎ 213-489-9918, www.neonmona.org. Historic neon signs, contemporary fine art. Open Wednesday-Saturday, 11am-5pm; Sunday, noon-5pm. Admission for adults is $5; for seniors and students, $3.50; for children under 12, free.

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Boulevard (between Figueroa and Vermont), ☎ 213-763-DINO (3466), www.nhm.org. Continuing exhibits of many aspects of natural history. The big hit is always the dinosaur fossils. Open Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10am-5pm. Admission for adults is $8; for seniors and students 13-18, $5.50; for children five-12, $2; for children under five, free. Admission is free to all on the first Tuesday of every month.

Southwest Museum, 234 Museum Drive (take the Pasadena Freeway (110) north to Avenue 43, follow signs), ☎ 323-221-2164. Art and artifacts of indigenous cultures from Alaska to South America, including one of the best collections of Southwest Native American Indian artifacts in the country. The museum is open Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-5pm. Admission for adults is $5; for seniors and students, $3; for children seven-18, $2; for children six and under, free.

Outdoor Concerts

Grand Performances at California Plaza, on Olive between 4th and 5th streets, ☎ 213-624-2146. Noontime summer concerts at the Watercourt; free.

Pershing Square Concert Series, Olive and 5th streets, ☎ 213-847-4970. The music is eclectic: folk, swing, classical. Tuesday and Thursday, noon-2pm; Tuesday, 5:30-7:30pm; free.

Spectator Sports

Enjoy baseball at **Dodger Stadium**, 100 Elysian Park Avenue ☎ 323-224-1500.

Staples Center, at 1111 South Figueroa Street, is a new arena that is home to various sports and teams. Contact the stadium for ticket information, ☎ 877-305-1111, www.staplescenter.com.

LA Avengers (football) . . . . . ☎ 877-4-AVENGERS
LA Clippers (basketball) . . . . . ☎ 213-742-7500
LA Kings (hockey) . . . . . ☎ 888-KINGS LA
LA Lakers (basketball). . . . . ☎ 310-419-DUNK

After Dark

The natives, they are restless tonight.
– Charles Laughton, *Island of Lost Souls*

Clubs

Despite the things we have said about downtown being dead at night, that does not include club life, which is livelier than ever. But note that clubs have a habit of suddenly going dark, while new ones just as unexpectedly open; call ahead.

FIRECRACKER
Grand Star Lounge
943 North Broadway (at College Street)
☎ 626-454-7447

This club is in the heart of Chinatown. It began a few years ago with a poetry slam party for a few friends, and have evolved into a bit of everything; guests come from different neighborhoods and ethnic groups in a spirit of one big family. Downstairs is a jazz trio; upstairs, DJs spin mostly hip-hop. You may hear poetry or see a film; as we write this the work of Chaz Bojorquez, godfather of West Coast graffiti art, is on exhibit. First and third Fridays of every month, 10pm-2am, 21 and older, $8 to $10 cover.

GRAND AVENUE NIGHT CLUB
1024 South Grand Avenue (at Olympic Boulevard)
☎ 213-747-0999
www.grandavenightclub.com

A big place with a young crowd (minimum age 21), with live music, plus a DJ spinning disco, hip-hop, reggae, '80s. Dance all night to different flavors. Salsa lessons are given Saturday, 8-9pm. No jeans, tennis shoes or hats are permitted.

LITTLE J'S
1119 South Olive Street
☎ 213-748-3646

Salsa classes are held here on Thursdays from 8 to 9:30pm, then you can dance till 2am. Fridays and Saturdays are old school and a little hip-hop; Friday, 5pm-2am; Saturday, 9pm-4am. Dress code is professional attire. Complimentary soul food is served. This is a really popular place with dancers in their 30s and up; the music is not as popular with those in their 20s. Thursdays free; Fridays before 9pm, $5; after 9pm $10. Saturdays before 10pm, $10; after 10pm, $12.

THE MAYAN
1038 South Hill Street
☎ 213-748-4287
www.clubmayan.com

People of all age groups (over 21) start arriving at 9pm Friday and Saturday and party till 3am, to a wide variety of music on two floors. No food service. Dress code is shirt with collar. Valet parking is available for $5, or park in the lot for $2.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE
618 South Spring Street
☎ 213-489-1195

This bar actually was the stock exchange until the brokers moved out. Happy hour starts on Friday at 4pm, with complimentary appetizers and music all night long. Dress code is upscale casual – look cool. One possible drawback

is that this is a lousy neighborhood, especially at night. Open Friday, 9pm-2am; Saturday, 9pm-3am.

ONLY IN LA

The Los Angeles cop who posed out of uniform for the July 2001 issue of *Playboy* said the nude photos didn't affect her credibility – the magazine buyers don't recognize her when she is in uniform.

Lounges & Happy Hours

ANGELS FLIGHT RESTAURANT & LOUNGE
Omni Hotel
251 South Olive Street
☎ 213-617-3300

At the top of Bunker Hill (see page 58). Cool piano. Open daily, 11am-2am.

BONA VISTA LOUNGE
Westin Bonaventure Hotel
404 South Figueroa Street
☎ 213-624-1000

Way up at the top. If you get tired of the fantastic view that goes along with the booze, take a glass elevator down to the hotel's Lobby Court Lounge and try your luck there. The Bona Vista Lounge is open from 4pm-1am daily.

CHECKERS LOUNGE
Checkers Hotel
535 South Grand Avenue
☎ 213-624-0000

Ask Joe the Bartender to make you Carol Burnett's favorite – a Skyy Vodka martini. A really cool, upscale place. Mind your manners. Open 10am-11pm.

Theaters

After New York City, Los Angeles is the prime theatrical town in the country, and with far more small houses all over town than New York. These are right downtown.

The Music Center, 135 North Grand Avenue (the Center is bounded by Grand Avenue and Hope Street, 1st and Temple streets), houses the city's three prime theaters.

- The **Ahmanson**, ☎ 213-628-2772, presents plays and musicals, mostly road shows from Broadway, and revivals.
- The **Dorothy Chandler Pavilion**, ☎ 213-972-7211, presents ballet performances, the LA Opera season from September to June, and the LA Master Chorale.
- The **Mark Taper Forum**, ☎ 213-972-7353, presents small plays, new and from off-Broadway.

Another venue, the **LA Theatre Center** at 514 South Spring Street, ☎ 213-627-6500, showcases independent theater group productions.

? Downtown A to Z

Currency Exchange

American Express, 901 West 7th Street, ☎ 213-427-4800.

AMFOREX Foreign Currency Exchange, 350 South Figueroa Street, ☎ 213-617-2133.

Bank Notes Exchange, 406 West 6th Street, ☎ 213-627-5404.

Foreign Currency Express, Bonaventure Hotel, 404 South Figueroa Street, Suite 604, ☎ 213-624-3693.

Hospitals

California Hospital Medical Center, 1401 South Grand Avenue, ☎ 213-748-2411.

Hospital of the Good Samaritan, 616 South Witmer Street, ☎ 213-977-2121.

Orthopedic Hospital, 2400 South Flower Street, ☎ 213-742-6509.

Pacific Alliance Medical Center, 531 West College Street, ☎ 213-624-8411.

Medical Referrals

Medical Society referrals, multilingual, ☎ 213-483-6122, Monday-Friday 8:45am-4:45pm.

Dental Society referrals, 24 hours, ☎ 213-481-2133.

Newspapers

Los Angeles Times, 202 West 1st Street, ☎ 213-237-5000, www.latimes.com; daily.

L.A. Downtown News, 1264 West 1st Street, ☎ 213-481-1448, weekly, on the stands Monday.

Parking

Metered parking can generally be found at the curb. Parking lots are located throughout the downtown area at varying rates, from 15 minutes to all day.

Pharmacies

Kelly's, 611 South Broadway, ☎ 213-629-2288.

Horton & Converse, 735 South Figueroa Street, ☎ 213-623-2838.

Rite Aid, 501 South Broadway, ☎ 213-628-8997.

Roosevelt Pharmacy, 729 West 7th Street, ☎ 213-623-3283.

Police & Fire

Emergency (fire, ambulance, police). . . . . ☎ 911
Police, non-emergency, multilingual . . . ☎ 213-485-3294

Post Offices

Arcade, 508 South Spring Street.

ARCO Plaza, 505 South Flower Street.

Bunker Hill, 300 South Grand Avenue.

Macy's Plaza, MCI Center, 750 West 7th Street.

Federal Section, 300 North LA Textile, and 100 West Olympic Boulevard.

Market, 1122 East 7th Street.

California Plaza, 350 South Grand Avenue, Suite B1.

Public Transportation

MTA . . . . . ☎ 800-COMMUTE, www.mta.net
METRO buses . . . . . ☎ 213-626-4455
DASH buses . . . . . ☎ 213-808-2273
Metrolink . . . . . ☎ 800-371-LINK
Pick up schedules and maps for all of the above at CalMart in the Fashion District, 9th and Main Streets; at the MTA Building, 1016 South Main Street; and at Union Station, 800 North Alameda Street (1 Gateway Plaza).

Taxis

Bell Cab Co. . . . . . ☎ 213-388-3177
Independent Cab Co. . . . . . ☎ 213-385-8294
LA Checker Cab Co. . . . . . ☎ 213-624-2227
LA Taxi Co. . . . . . ☎ 213-627-7000

Time & Weather

Time . . . . . ☎ 853-1212 (in all area codes)
Weather . . . . . ☎ 213-554-1212

Visitor Information

The **Los Angeles Convention & Visitors Bureau**, at 685 South Figueroa Street, LA, CA 90017, ☎ 213-689-8822, has hundreds of brochures and maps, and a multilingual staff. They are open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm; and Saturday, 8:30am-5pm. The LACVB is located between Wilshire Boulevard and 7th Street; DASH "A" Line stops at 7th and Fig; the nearest METRO Station is at 7th and Flower, one block away.

Six **Information Kiosks** on wheels roam downtown, staying for two hours at a time in places with heavy contingents of tourists, such as Pershing Square. The kiosks are staffed by "ambassadors" in purple polo shirts.

Downtown Center Business Improvement District, ☎ 213-624-2146.

LA Convention Center, ☎ 213-741-1151.

Travelers Aid Society, ☎ 323-468-2500.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

When you phone the Business Improvement District office and are put on hold, the music you hear is – of course – *Downtown*.

Hollywood

The stuff that dreams are made of.
– Humphrey Bogart, *The Maltese Falcon*

Overview

Hollywood is, in one sense, an abstraction. When people say they are going to Hollywood, they usually mean they are going somewhere in Greater Los Angeles where they can see as much of the aura and glamour of the motion picture business as possible. Visitors find that it's spread out over a large area, from Studio City to Culver City, and from Westwood to Malibu.

But Hollywood is also an actual place. Look at an area map and you will see it is roughly the part of Los Angeles that stretches from Hyperion Avenue (a half-dozen blocks east of Vermont Avenue) on the east to Doheny Drive on the west, and from Melrose Avenue on the south to the top of the Hollywood Hills, which rise just a few blocks north of Hollywood Boulevard.

Hollywood is just a small part of the City of Angels, though the residents are trying to change that, as we write, by attempting to secede and form their own city, much as smaller West Hollywood successfully did a few years ago.

DISTANCES FROM HOLLYWOOD

Beaches	15 miles
Beverly Hills	5 miles
Burbank Airport	10 miles
Disneyland	40 miles
Downtown Los Angeles	8 miles
Los Angeles Int'l Airport	15 miles

History

At first what is now called Hollywood was mostly empty land in the boonies about eight miles west of Los Angeles, which, in the late 1800s, was a small town spreading out along the Los Angeles River. It was mostly sagebrush out here, with farms and some orange groves and a few dirt roads.

A 1900 law made it illegal to drive more than 2,000 sheep down Hollywood Boulevard.

Horace and Daeida Wilcox owned a ranch that was the center of the town when it was incorporated in 1903 with a population of 700. The name Hollywood came from the summer home of a friend of Mrs. Wilcox. The people who lived here were, by all accounts, staid and upright citizens. The joke in Los Angeles was that after nine o'clock at night you could shoot a cannonball down Prospect Avenue and not hit a living soul.

Then the first movie studios arrived, and with them hard-drinking cameramen, hell-raising stuntmen, and actors with questionable morals. Prospect Avenue was renamed **Hollywood Boulevard**. And there went the neighborhood.

But how all these people ended up making magic in a place called Hollywood is a more complicated story; it starts back east in 1889 when **George Eastman** and **Thomas Edison** solved the basic problem of how to make photographic images move by putting film on a one-inch, frame-lined, flexible celluloid strip. By 1892 "moving pictures" could be seen in penny arcades and kinetoscope parlors.

By the early 1900s dozens of upstart "producers" were cranking out short "features" one reel of film long. Edison contended that he owned the underlying patents involved in the production of these films, but while he argued it in court, millions of nickels were pouring into nickelodeon box offices instead of into his pocket. Edison finally gave up trying to shut everyone else out, and in 1909 went into business with his largest competitors. Together they formed the **Motion Pictures Patents Company**, which had a monopoly on production, distribution and exhibition.

The small producers who were shut out as a result of the merger were mostly nickelodeon owners who resented paying exorbitant prices for the Patents Company's films; however, every time one of them tried to shoot a bootleg movie in the wilds of Long Island the Patents Company's agents would swoop down with a writ and put them out of business.

By 1908 there were more than 10,000 nickelodeons throughout the country.

HISTORIC NOTE

How The Nickelodeon Worked – Viewers dropped a penny in the slot and turned a crank: a light flashed on and they could see a one-minute-long production entitled *How Bridget Served the Salad Undressed*.

The Birth of Hollywood

Desperate to get out of the reach of the monopoly, a few producers packed up their cameras and actors and boarded trains headed west. Los Angeles was the end of the line.

Cecil B. De Mille produced the first feature film in Hollywood, *The Squaw Man*, in 1913 in a barn at the corner of Vine and Selma, one block south of the corner of Hollywood and Vine. The film cost a grand total of $15,000 to make and grossed $225,000, which made it one of the first nationwide hits. There is a plaque dedicated to *The Squaw Man* on the northeast corner of Vine and Selma, but the location is wrong; it should be on the southeast corner where the barn/studio was.

The little town was soon awash in motion picture people. As if that wasn't bad enough for the original upright Protestant inhabitants, its political independence didn't last long, either. Nearby Los Angeles was becoming a metropolis by annexing every bit of land it could get its hands on, one way or another.

FILM TRIVIA

De Mille's original barn studio was later moved to the Paramount lot on Melrose and became part of the *Bonanza* set when that television series was shot in the 1960s.

Having outgrown the water available in the Los Angeles River, the city of Los Angeles secretly bought up the water rights to most of the Owens Valley, a beautiful place of ranches and farms high up on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains a few hundred miles north. Then it pumped all the water south, effectively destroying the farms and the valley but assuring Los Angeles' future monstrous growth.

HISTORIC NOTE

The first real movie shot here was *The Count of Monte Cristo*. William Selig started the short in Chicago, at Lake Michigan's beach. Fleeing Thomas Edison's writ-serving agents, he brought his camera, but not the actors, and finished the picture at the beach 18 miles west of Los Angeles with local look-alikes. The year was 1907.

A few small towns, like Beverly Hills and Santa Monica, had enough water wells to make it on their own, but Hollywood was dry. Los Angeles refused to sell water to the burgeoning film capital unless it agreed to be swallowed up by the big city. Hollywood had no choice. It was annexed to Los Angeles in 1913. Since 1913 Hollywood has been the name of only one small part of Los Angeles. But it is the part that made all the rest famous all over the world.

Hollywood & Glamour: Synonymous

Hollywood is the sort of place you expect to find down a rabbit hole.

– Alexander Woolcott

By 1920 the population of Hollywood was 30,000 (now it is nearly 300,000). It really was the height of glamour up to World War II. There were nightclubs and restaurants, and the big movie premieres were held at the Egyptian and Chinese theaters. Eventually the big-name stars simply moved away, mostly to Beverly Hills, Malibu and West LA They stopped coming to Hollywood except to work in one of the few studios that were left, mostly RKO, Paramount and the old Warner Bros. lot on Western. When the stars didn't dine, shop or play here any longer, only the rest of us were left. Hollywood has always been full of writers and other less-well-known film folk.

The reputation of the Brown Derby on Vine Street wasn't all publicity hype; hundreds of movie stars really did dine and drink there.

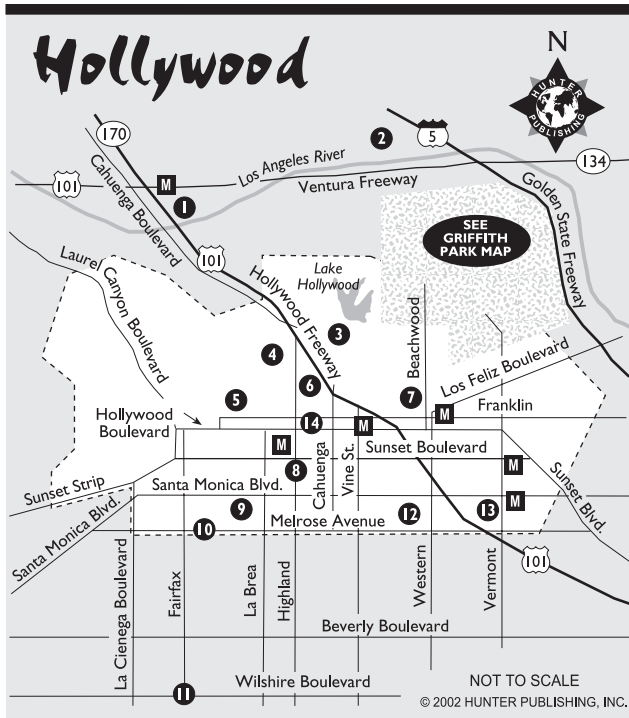
The area went downhill in the '60s; T-shirt shops and stores selling tchotchkes moved in, as well as panhandlers and assorted weirdos. A revival is taking place now, anchored by the new Kodak Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard next to the Chinese Theatre, part of the Hollywood & Highland complex (see page 145). Within a few years, the area, especially Hollywood Boulevard itself, may be transformed. We can hope.

Getting Here & Getting Around

From LAX

By Car

From the airport, drive north to the San Diego Freeway (I-405); go north to the Sunset Boulevard off-ramp, then go right (east) on Sunset to Hollywood (about eight miles).



1. Universal City & Studios
2. NBC Studios; Disney Studios
3. John Anson Ford Amphitheatre
4. Hollywood Bowl; Runyon Canyon Park
5. Magic Castle; Yamashiro
6. Hollywood Studios Museum
7. Château Elysée
8. Hollywood High School
9. Warner Hollywood Studios
10. Melrose Avenue Shopping District
11. Petersen Automotive Museum; Zimmer Children's Museum
12. Paramount Studios; Hollywood Memorial Cemetery
13. Los Angeles Community College & Theatre Academy
14. Hollywood Boulevard Walk of Fame; The Janes House/Visitors Center

M Metro Red Line stops

------- Hollywood boundary

By Bus

Take the free bus marked "Lot C" from the front of any terminal, then transfer at Lot C to Metro Bus 42; take that bus to La Brea Avenue and Overhill, and transfer to bus 212 to Hollywood Boulevard. The fare is $1.60. For sched-

ules, call the MTA at ☎ 800-COMMUTE (266-6883); for hearing-impaired TTY, ☎ 800-252-9040.

From Downtown Los Angeles

By Car

Take the Hollywood Freeway (101) west; get off at Sunset Boulevard or Hollywood Boulevard exit. Use the parking lots on side streets off Hollywood Boulevard, or look for street parking, which is metered on the boulevards.

By Public Transportation

Take Metro Red Line (subway) at the Pershing Square (at 5th Street betwen Olive and Hill) or the 7th and Flower stations; exit at Hollywood and Vine or Hollywood and Highland. The fare is $1.35.

Plenty of buses run on the east-west boulevards: Hollywood, Sunset, Santa Monica and Melrose; there are occasional Metro Buses (number 212) running north-south on La Brea and on Vine (numbers 210 and 426). Fare is $1.35, plus 25¢ for transfer.

Who Lives Here?

Don't these big, empty houses scare you?
Not me, I was in vaudeville.

– Paulette Goddard & Bob Hope,
The Cat and the Canary

The Hollywood Hills

Starting in about 1915, many of Hollywood's stars moved to the hills; among those who made the move were Charlie Chaplin, W.C. Fields, Jean Harlow and Groucho Marx. A surprising number of celebrities still live there. A few years ago the Hollywood Hills were home to Nicolas Cage, Kelsey Grammer and Madonna; more recent arrivals include Drew Barrymore, Leonardo DiCaprio and Ellen

DeGeneres. For a while these hills were iffy as a residential area. We still see a lot of celebrities moving out, usually going to the Westside, or back to New York.

You find older, established stars in mansions in Beverly Hills and farther west. The Hollywood Hills are for younger stars, and the houses are more unassuming, which is "in." Ben Affleck washed his old cars and motorcycles in the street outside his house until he moved to Beverly Hills.

The area starts at **Beverly Hills** on the west. It takes in everything from just above the **Sunset Strip** up to **Mulholland Drive**, which runs along the top ridge line of the mountains, east to **Riverside Drive**. It is made up of four main sections, each with subdivisions.

Whitley Heights

Developed in the early 1920s, Whitley Heights was Los Angeles' first celebrity neighborhood.

This neighborhood is in the hills above the Hollywood Boulevard Walk of Fame, north of Franklin Avenue from Cahuenga Boulevard to Highland Avenue. To get to Whitley Heights from Franklin Avenue, turn north on Whitley Avenue, two blocks west of Cahuenga. The neighborhood was split in two by the construction of the Hollywood Freeway; to reach the smaller part, take Cahuenga north and go under the freeway.

Patrick Bauchau, who stars in the TV series *The Pretender* and whose wife is the sister of French actress Brigitte Bardot, has lived for many years in a villa-like house built in 1921. Louise Brooks, Zsa Zsa Gabor and George Sanders previously lived in the house, one of the 196 Mediterranean-style homes in the Whitley Heights Historical Preservation Zone. None of these homes can be repainted, added to or altered in any way without the hard-to-get okay of the local architectural review board.

A builder named H.J. Whitley envisioned the hilltop overlooking Hollywood Boulevard as a small Mediterranean village, its white stucco homes with red tile roofs set among narrow winding streets lined with palm trees. The idea was an immediate success with film people. Jean Harlow lived here in the 1920s, among some of the best Spanish architecture in the city. At one time or another

Wallace Beery, Francis X. Bushman, Charlie Chaplin, Bette Davis, William Faulkner, Jean Harlow, Carmen Miranda, Harold Lloyd, Chester Morris, Tyrone Power, Rosalind Russell, Norma Shearer, Gloria Swanson and W.C. Fields all lived here. But the new crop of stars doesn't seem to be moving into Whitley Heights.

Beachwood Canyon

This beautiful neighborhood has always been popular with celebrities. Beachwood Drive is a winding road off Franklin Avenue five blocks east of Vine Street; you can follow it up to the Hollywood sign just under the crest of the mountain. The area includes the hills on both sides of Beachwood Drive with scores of crooked little streets.

Those who remember with fond nostalgia the original *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956) should be aware that **Beachwood Village** is where the last 15 minutes of the film was shot. The townspeople of "Santa Mira" chased Kevin McCarthy and Dana Wynter through the village (then still called Hollywoodland) near the top of Beachwood Canyon Drive, then up the long stairs from Westshire Drive to Hollyridge Drive. The final scenes take place on the bridge that crosses the Hollywood Freeway near the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre.

Los Feliz

To get to Los Feliz Boulevard, drive east on Hollywood or Franklin to Western Avenue, then take Western to its end a few blocks north of Franklin at the foot of the hills. Everything along both sides of Los Feliz Boulevard, down to the Los Angeles River, is the Los Feliz district of Hollywood. The big building at Western and Franklin is the American Film Institute, a school for writers and directors.

Red Hot Chili Peppers' bassist Flea, who appeared in *Mascara*, *Psycho* (the 1998 remake), and other films, recently sold his 1924 Moorish-style house here to John Getty, grandson of the unimaginably rich, now deceased oilman, J. Paul Getty. Bob Dylan, Andy Warhol and actor John

Phillip Law previously lived here. In 1928 Walt Disney owned a small English Tudor-style home in the 2400 block of Lyric Avenue, where he worked on his animation projects in the garage.

Actress-comedian-writer Lily Tomlin, who has won Tony, Emmy, Grammy and Peabody awards, lived in a 1920 house in the Laughlin Park area of Los Feliz. Cecil B. De Mille and the singing actress Deanna Durbin each lived in it, and W.C. Fields leased the house for many years. Charlie Chaplin also lived in a Laughlin Park Mediterranean-style, gated home built before 1920. All of these houses are still considered very desirable and sell now in the $2- to $3-million range.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Leonardo DiCaprio (*Titanic*) donated $35,000 for a computer center at the new Los Feliz branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. The new library at 1874 Hillhurst Avenue is on the site of the DiCaprio family home, where Leonardo spent his teens just a few years ago.

From Highland to Doheny

Moving west, **Outpost Estates** takes in the area from Highland to La Brea (Outpost Drive goes up off Franklin Place), with mostly Spanish architecture. There is a six-bedroom, Spanish-style home built in 1927 for Dolores Del Rio, later lived in by Maria Montez and then by fashion designer Richard Tyler (whose designs have been worn by Julia Roberts, Janet Jackson and Sigourney Weaver). Alan Hale Sr. (star of over 300 films, including *The Adventures of Robin Hood*) and Alan Hale Jr. (*Gilligan's Island*) lived at 1940 Outpost Circle. Living on or just off Outpost now are Bob Barker, Rebecca De Mornay, Howard Hesseman, Billy Idol and Penny Marshall.

WOMEN WHO WORK IN HOLLYWOOD

Women who might be considering moving to Hollywood to work in the film industry should take a look at some recent statistics before burning any bridges. Here's the San Diego State University's analysis of behind-the-camera employment of 2,462 individuals working on 222 films in 2000:

- **Executive Producers –** 16% were women
- **Producers –** 24% were women
- **Writers –** 14% were women
- **Editors –** 19% were women
- **Cinematographers –** 2% were women

And the celluloid ceiling lives on.

The Gothic mansion at 7001 Franklin Avenue, located below Yamashiro Restaurant, was once Janet Gaynor's home. Now it is the **Magic Castle**, a non-profit private club for professional magicians. We were fortunate to be taken there as guests and found they have a hilarious bar, where seats may mysteriously change in height, and terrific shows. If you are a magic enthusiast you could call and try: ☎ 323-851-3313.

A bit farther west is **Nichols Canyon**, where the homes are all high up. You have to like driving on winding mountain roads to live here. The neighborhood has lots of Spanish-style houses built in the 1950s.

Then comes **Laurel Canyon Boulevard**, steep, twisting and only one narrow lane in each direction, yet it has always been a major road between Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley. If you have to drive it during rush hour give yourself an extra half-hour to get where you are going. Frank De Felitta, best-selling novelist and screenwriter (*Audrey Rose*, *The Entity*) lives off Laurel and Mulholland, among many in the film colony. This is where we met Robert Wise, the great director, at many of Frank's annual Super Bowl parties. **Mount Olympus**, an area of Laurel Canyon (Mount Olympus Drive goes off near the

bottom of Laurel), is an upscale 1970s development with wide streets and great views.

From Laurel west to Doheny is the **Sunset Strip** area, which encompasses everything above Sunset Boulevard. Orson Welles lived at 8545 Franklin Avenue. Errol Flynn lived at 3100 Torreyson Place, a short street off Mulholland Drive west of Nichols Canyon. The house was the scene of legendary parties. The new, hip, Strip hotels, bars and restaurants have made the lower area, centered on Sunset Plaza, very desirable. Johnny Depp lives one block north of Sunset in Bela Lugosi's former home. Living on or just off Doheny Drive are Herbie Hancock, Ricardo Montalban and Judd Nelson.

Hitting the road recently out of the hills were Joel Grey, Nicolas Cage, Dan Aykroyd, Larry Drake (*L.A. Law*), Kelsey Grammer and singer-songwriter Lionel Ritchie, who moved with his wife to Beverly Hills.

Madonna put her Hollywood Hills house on the market after she moved to London and then decided to stay there and have a baby. Kathy Bates moved just a bit south of Hollywood to Hancock Park (more about that area later), selling to actor-writer Jon Cryer.

WARNING!

At Madonna's former place this sign was posted: "Madonna No Longer Lives Here. Dogs Attack at the Command Word *Madonna*."

Christian Slater sold his house to Tim Allen, and Ben Stiller and Leonardo DiCaprio have both moved here, as have René Auberjonois, Sandra Bullock and Cameron Diaz. Jenna Elfman (*Dharma and Greg*) bought Madonna's home in the hills, and Paul McCartney bought Courtney Love's place, which she had purchased from Ellen DeGeneres several years ago when DeGeneres moved to Ojai. Then DeGeneres sold the place in Ojai and bought once again in Hollywood Hills. Now she has put the new pied-à-terre on the market.

PEOPLE WE WISH WERE STILL WITH US

Pulitzer Prize-winning authors **Will** and **Ariel Durant** wrote most of their 11-volume *The Story of Civilization* in the Los Feliz home where they lived for 40 years. **Aldous Huxley**, brilliant English novelist and author of *Brave New World*, lived in the Hollywood Hills from 1937 until his death in 1963. **Christopher Isherwood**, also British, had his long-time home in Santa Monica canyon, and **Thomas Mann** moved here from Austria and bought a home in Pacific Palisades, which became a salon for famous European refugees during the 1930s and '40s.

Down From the Hills

Where the Non-Hip Live...

There is a stretch of **Rossmore Avenue** – the southern extension of Vine Street between Melrose and Beverly – that has been lined with desirable apartments since the 1920s. **Mae West** lived in the Ravenswood Apartments, 570 North Rossmore, across from the Wilshire Country Club, from the time she hit town in 1932 until her death in 1980. She first came here to do a small part in *Night After Night*, which was supposed to star George Raft. This is where Mae had her famous first scene in moving pictures. She walked into a nightclub in a long white satin gown, loaded with jewelry, and had the following exchange:

Hatcheck Girl: *Goodness! What beautiful diamonds!*

Mae: *Goodness had nothing to do with it, dearie.*

George Raft said later, "Steal the picture? She stole everything but the camera!"

Hancock Park

South of Melrose Avenue is, strictly speaking, outside of Hollywood proper, but many of the people who live here

think of themselves as Hollywoodians – except those who live in the area between **Beverly** and **Wilshire** boulevards and from **Rossmore** to **Highland** avenues. They are definitely in quiet, polite, upscale Hancock Park.

HANCOCK PARK'S TENNIS CLUB

May Sutton, who at the age of 18 was the first American to enter a singles match at Wimbledon, built the Los Angeles Tennis Club in Hancock Park near Melrose and Vine. May played there against Joan Bennett, Charlie Chaplin, Marlene Dietrich, Clark Gable and Jean Harlow, and gave lessons to actress Bebe Daniels (*The Maltese Falcon*, 1931 version, and *42nd Street*). May's husband, Thomas Clark Bundy, went into real estate. Bundy Drive (of O.J. Simpson fame) is named after him.

Richard Schiff, who plays White House communications director Toby Ziegler on *The West Wing*, bought a home here, as did French Stewart of *3rd Rock from the Sun*, and David Schwimmer of *Friends*; and when Kathy Bates sold her Hollywood Hills home it was to move to Hancock Park.

REMEMBERING THE 1940s

The late, great singer **Nat King Cole's** house came on the market recently. It is an English Tudor-style, built in 1924 on a large corner lot in Hancock Park. When Nat and his wife, Maria, bought the place in 1948, an attorney for the nearby all-white property owners said, "We don't want undesirable people coming here." The singer replied, "Neither do I, and if I see anybody undesirable coming into this neighborhood, I'll be the first to complain."

On Location

Hollywood Boulevard has been the site of many scenes on film. The intersection of **Hollywood** and **Vine** was the centerpiece of a 1936 picture called *Hollywood Boulevard*, and showed up again in a Gene Wilder-Richard Pryor comedy, *Another You*. Farther up the street, the 6600 block was prominent in *Alex in Wonderland*; and **Grauman's Chinese Theatre**, 6925 Hollywood Boulevard, the location of many film premieres, was where a famous scene in *The Day of the Locust* was filmed. It is also where Janet Gaynor went to see the footprints in cement when she first arrived in Hollywood as a naive wannabe actress in *A Star Is Born*. And it is the first place many visitors to Hollywood go even today.

The **Hollywood Bowl**, 2301 North Highland Avenue (see page 157), is also in *A Star Is Born*, as the place where Gaynor, the soon-to-be star, meets Frederic March, the aging star. The Bowl was also in *Hollywood Hotel*, *Three Smart Girls* and various TV episodes.

The movie *Chinatown* was all about Los Angeles getting water from the Owens Valley. **Lake Hollywood** was used several times in that picture, and it is the lake's waters that threaten to flood the city in *Earthquake*. Also in the Hollywood Hills is the house where Barbara Stanwyck talked Fred MacMurray into killing her husband in one of the best detective films (along with *The Maltese Falcon*) of all time, *Double Indemnity*. The house is still there at **6301 Quebec Drive**, at the intersection of El Contento Drive, in a maze of hard-to-find streets. Get the Chamber of Commerce's free map of Hollywood, and find Franklin and Vine: the house is about an inch above there.

A few of the more memorable places in Hollywood include a house at **565 Cahuenga Boulevard**, which was used as the Cunningham home in *Happy Days*. **Crossroads of the World**, at Sunset Boulevard and Las Palmas Avenue, was built in the 1930s as one of the first-ever shopping malls, with a Streamline Moderne design, and was used as the office of the *Tattler*, the tabloid newspaper in *L.A. Confidential*. And hilltop restaurant **Yamashiro**, 1999 North Sycamore Avenue (off Franklin, west of Highland),

Ronald Reagan was a member of the American Legion's Hollywood Post, 2035 North Highland Avenue.

has been seen in a number of features, most prominently in *Sayonara*.

Best Places to Stay

Will I see you tonight?
I never make plans that far ahead.
– Humphrey Bogart to Madeleine LeBeau, *Casablanca*

Hotels

The accommodations price scale can be found on page 39.

Stars don't stay in hotels in Hollywood any more. They used to, back in the early days when the famed Hollywood Hotel, a rambling white wooden building, stood on the northwest corner of Hollywood and Highland. It was in sad shape when it was finally torn down in 1957. There are a couple of still-famous hotels that are steeped in movie-making lore, though; both are on the Hollywood Boulevard Walk. See the Knickerbocker (page 151) and Hollywood Roosevelt (below).

BEST WESTERN HOLLYWOOD HILLS HOTEL
6141 Franklin Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90028
☎ 323-464-5181; fax 323-962-0536; reservations (CA) 800-287-1700 (in California); 800-528-1234 (elsewhere)
www.bestwestern.com/hollywoodhillshotel
Moderate

The Hollywood Hills Hotel is two blocks from the Walk of Fame.

Judith Altadine tells us her family has owned this hotel since 1948. Before that, British novelist Aldous Huxley stayed here (he wrote the screenplays for *Pride and Prejudice* and *Jane Eyre*), as did Aaron Spelling, who produced *The Love Boat* among many TV series. (We count among our minor sins a few episodes of *Starsky & Hutch* we wrote for Spelling.) These days the hotel's coffee shop is better known than the hotel (see page 124). The four-story hotel has no suites, but standard rooms ($109) and larger executive rooms. There is a pool and – a rarity in this area – free covered parking. Lots of Hollywood atmosphere here, starting with the murals.

★ **HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT HOTEL**
7000 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, CA 90028
☎ 323-466-7000, 800-950-7667
www.hollywoodroosevelt.com
Moderate

The Hollywood Roosevelt has been *the* Hollywood hotel since it was built in 1927. And it is in a great location. This is where the first Academy Awards ceremony was held. The swimming pool is the one Marilyn Monroe favored when she was starting out. For more about the hotel's history, see *Walk of Fame*, page 142. Despite its age, frequent renovations have kept the place up. There is a cabaret and a restaurant, where we especially like the lavish Sunday brunch buffet.

For a few years the Hollywood Roosevelt was owned by a Japanese hotel chain, and Japanese tour groups still like it for their Hollywood vacations, but you are just as likely to hear other languages in the lobby as the hotel is well known in Europe.

RENAISSANCE HOLLYWOOD HOTEL
1755 Highland Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90028
☎ 323-323-1200
www.renaissancehollywood.com
Expensive

The 22-story Renaissance Hollywood Hotel is part of a big project called Hollywood & Highland that includes cinemas, restaurants, shops and the new Kodak Theatre, designed to house the Academy Awards. There are 640 accommodations, from oversized luxury rooms to VIP suites. There is a restaurant, a lobby lounge bar and a pool bar that serves lunch and cocktails. The pool terrace has cabanas and views of the Hollywood skyline. Look for a concierge, dry cleaning, and staff fluency in French, German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish. This massive development may, indeed, do much to revitalize Hollywood. The hotel is in a great location, around the corner from the Chinese Theatre and next to a Metro Rail subway stop.

Best Places to Eat

Feed me! Feed me!

– Audrey Jr. (the carnivorous plant),
The Little Shop of Horrors

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

Hollywood has always been a mecca for hopeless optimists who dream of owning a restaurant. Oddly, the core area, on and around Hollywood Boulevard, has never supported many really serious places. Two restaurants have been here forever (as time is counted in Hollywood): **Musso & Frank's** and **Miceli's**; the rest – excepting, of course, **Les Deux Cafés** – are mainly for casual food and stuff you eat with your hands.

In the past decade, however, **Melrose Avenue** has become the center of one of the city's prime concentrations of good restaurants. You will find them mostly in the stretch of a dozen blocks west of La Brea Avenue. Those with a handful of tables out on the sidewalk serve primarily light fare, but quite a few of the city's serious eateries are also along here.

Fine Dining

★★ AGO

8478 Melrose Avenue
☎ 323-655-6333
Nuevo American-Italian
Expensive

The restaurant's name is properly pronounced AH-go.

A two-level dining room with a wood-burning pizza oven as its centerpiece. The moment you sit down, a chap will appear with a bottle of water in each hand. Would you like still or sparkling? Either bottle will add about $6 to your tab. We prefer tap.

While you nibble on complimentary flatbread from the pizza oven, drizzled with olive oil, you can look around and get your bearings. Any celebrities present are probably seated toward the back of the room, the preferred area. The place averages a high celebrity quotient, which perhaps accounts for the median price for a bottle of wine: in the low $100s. The owner's name is Agostino Sciandri,

called Ago for short, thus the name of the restaurant; he'll probably be there. Open for lunch, Monday-Friday, noon-2:30pm; dinner, Monday-Friday, 6-11:30pm; Saturday, 6-11pm; Sunday, 6-10:30pm.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Ago is co-owned by Robert DeNiro, along with Miramax Pictures producers Harvey and Bob Weinstein and directors Tony and Ridley Scott, which may help lure the customers in.

★★ CAMPANILE

624 South La Brea Avenue
☎ 323-938-1447
www.campanilerestaurant.com
California/South of France
Very Expensive

We must confess, we are partial to Campanile; Nancy Silverton, the owner, is the daughter of a friend of ours, Doris Silverton, who died not too long ago. We had dinner at the restaurant after the memorial service there. So when we say this is a very good restaurant, you will have to believe we are putting personal feelings aside. It is hard to pick out any one item as superior. Entrées lean mostly to fish, steaks and lamb in the winter, though the menu changes constantly. Much as we like it, we do not eat here too often, primarily because appetizers are $9 to $15, and entrées $25 to $38.

The unusual building it occupies was built by Charlie Chaplin as his office in 1928. The main dining room is in the rear downstairs, but there are more rooms up a flight of stairs to the mezzanine, where the windows overlook the space below. We promised not to divulge any names, to protect people's privacy, but this is obviously a popular place with celebrities. Open for lunch, Monday-Friday, 11:30am-2:30pm; and brunch, Saturday and Sunday, 9:30am-1:30pm. Dinner is served Monday-Thursday, 6-10pm; Friday-Saturday, 5:30-11pm.

Campanile *means bell tower in Italian and is pronounced camp-an-EEL-ay.*

★★ HOLLYWOOD HILLS COFFEE SHOP

6145 Franklin Avenue
☎ 323-661-3319
American-multiethnic
Inexpensive

This is one of the places that at first glance (or second, or fourth) doesn't seem to be a hangout for celebrities. The first time someone mentioned seeing the likes of Brad Pitt and Michelle Phillips we thought they had been imbibing too many baked hot chocolates (a specialty here, a cross between a pudding and a soufflé with thousands of calories lovingly tucked inside). Then someone else told us Sandra Bullock and Nicolas Cage are among others who have been known to make this scene.

The attraction is probably the talent of Susan Fine Moore, whose background is in classic French cuisine, and who took the place over a few years ago. So the food is very good, even though a specialty of the house is not *poulet truffé* but rather cowboy chili (there are a lot of Mexican dishes on the big menu).

We didn't see anyone *that* well known when we were chowing down on *huevos rancheros* and *torta tortilla*, but there was background talk of studios and scripts while we were eyeing the *Swingers* poster on the wall (a scene from the movie was shot here, probably because this is where the writers sketched out the plot between bites). Monday-Thursday, 9am-11pm; Friday-Saturday until midnight.

★★ LES DEUX CAFES

1638 North Las Palmas Avenue
☎ 323-465-0509
French
Expensive-Very Expensive

People know about Les Deux Cafés strictly by word of mouth; the restaurant doesn't advertise. This place – with a garden behind stone walls off a parking lot – is deliberately hard to find. There is no sign out front and no entrance on Las Palmas, but it is two doors down from the very visible Miceli's. Owned by Michelle Lamy, the lady with the French accent who is also an actress, the restaurant is intimate, and protective of the celebrities who come here, such as Sharon Stone, and Madonna. Bill Murray is

a part-owner, and his brother John tends bar. Sting threw a birthday party here. At lunch one day we saw k.d. lang and Prince, with other musical types.

Some nights there is a DJ, and on other nights you'll hear live jazz. Les Deux Cafés is open for lunch on weekdays, 11:30am-2:30pm; dinner is served every night, from 6-10:30pm on weekdays and until 11:30 on weekends. (that is when the kitchen closes but the café is open until 2am). There is a microphone, and occasionally you'll hear the owner or one of the celebrity guests get up and sing. Someone told us, "Les Deux is like the nighttime living room or a salon for the people in entertainment and music who live in the Hills, a place to meet and talk."

Look for the entrance to Les Deux Cafés in a corner of the parking lot.

★★ MICELI'S

1646 North Las Palmas Avenue
☎ 323-466-3438
American-Italian
Inexpensive

Next door to the newer, higher-priced Les Deux Cafés, Miceli's is like a weathered, experienced uncle towering over an eager youngster. Carmen Miceli has seen a lot of Hollywood go by since he opened his doors most of a lifetime ago. The restaurant still looks the way Italian restaurants did a half-century back, with reed-wrapped Chianti bottles hanging from the ceiling and all the tables covered with red-checked cloths. Some things haven't changed in 50 years. The bread isn't made with lard anymore, but the great rolls are still made with pizza dough. And Toni, the waitress, has been here since 1942. The menu still has lots of pasta with pomodoro sauce, lasagna, and cacciatore. Old-fashioned Italian-American comfort food. But, hey! That is just what we love.

Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe used to meet here; John Kennedy came in, and The Beatles; these days you might see Joe Pesci. Do you remember the *I Love Lucy* episode where Lucy got a job flipping pizzas? She spent three days in Miceli's learning how to do it, making pizza for startled customers. There are no photos on the walls of celebrities with a smiling owner; as Carmen always says, "They come here to be left alone. Leave 'em alone."

When Miceli's was the first pizzeria west of the Mississippi in 1949, pizza went for 35¢.

Scenes from the original *Terminator* were shot here, and some from *Vampire in Brooklyn*. The place was closed for 10 days in October last year while a picture was shot inside (we don't know which one; it had a working title). There is music on an intermittent basis – a jazz combo, sometimes a big band in the cellar; call ahead to find out what is scheduled. A good time to see celebs is at night after a show at the Pantages, or a premiere at the Egyptian. Posted hours are Sunday-Thursday, 11am-midnight; Friday and Saturday, 11am-12:30am. But actual hours are rather casual; they may not open for lunch until closer to noon, and if there are a bunch of congenial customers at the bar they'll stay open way past midnight. From Thursday through Saturday the cellar lounge is open until 2am.

★★ MUSSO & FRANK'S GRILL

6667 Hollywood Boulevard
☎ 323-467-7788
Old fashioned-American cooking
Moderate-Expensive

Musso's, as it is known, is the oldest restaurant in Hollywood and the one most closely associated with movie-making people throughout its history. Many of the studios moved away from Hollywood but the studio people still come back. There are two rooms; one has banquettes and open tables and a long bar; the other has a counter facing the grill and its flames, plus three rows of booths with high backs so you are never sure who is sitting behind you until you walk down the row and look. If you are alone, sit at the counter and watch the cooks searing the chops. You might see Lily Tomlin there having her usual: sautéed scallops, mashed potatoes, salad with thousand island dressing and a martini with olives to start it off properly.

At Musso's order "macaroni au gratin" to get macaroni and cheese, made with cheddar and parmesan.

For about 80 years, expert tipplers have gone to Musso's for the best martinis in town. But don't expect fancy food to go with them. What you will eat here now is just what you would have had in the 1920s – perhaps because they have had almost the same menu since 1922. William Saroyan always had the charcoal broiled rack of lamb with mushrooms and onions – it is still on the menu. In France they call this kind of food *cuisine bourgeois*; we know it as comfort food. And the menu is immense. Lois Dwan, for-

mer *Los Angeles Times* food writer, once wrote, "A man I know went to Musso's every day for three weeks, never ate the same thing twice, never had a poor meal and never got through the menu."

Make dinner reservations for 8pm or later; the restaurant is always crowded earlier with theater-goers to the Pantages Theatre down the street. Parking (partial validation available) in rear; enter on Whitley. (For more about Musso's, see *Walk of Fame*, page 147.)

★ TIP

Musso's waiters (all men) have worked here an average of 35 years. They know their business better than anyone, so be sure you treat them with respect.

★★ PATINA

5955 Melrose Avenue
☎ 323-467-1108
California-continental
Very Expensive

Joachim Splichal, *chef extraordinaire*, owns a gaggle of restaurants now, but this is where it all started 11 years ago. This place was a big hit with famous film folk back then, and still is. A recent remodeling has tripled the size of the formerly tiny kitchen, and there is a new dining patio. Patina is a prime star-watching venue. It's also a favorite of those who labor at Paramount Pictures up the street. Dinner, Monday-Friday, 6-10pm; Saturday, 5:30-10:30pm. Lunch is served only on Fridays, noon-2pm.

Patina is one of only two restaurant members of Relais & Châteaux in the Los Angeles area. The other is L'Orangerie (see page 206).

★★ PINOT HOLLYWOOD

1448 North Gower Street
☎ 323-461-8800.
Nouveau-continental, bistro fare
Expensive

This is one of Joachim Splichal's Patina spin-offs; during TV season it is always crowded after 11pm, when casts and crews come here after work (most shows are filmed

Tuesdays and Fridays). Whoever's currently shooting at Sunset-Gower Studios (the old Columbia lot) is usually in here at lunch. The martini bar always has a crowd; on the patio you can order salads and sandwiches. The pancetta-penne pasta is delicious and so is the gnocchi. Serves lunch Monday-Friday, 11:30am-2:30pm; after 2:30 a light lunch menu is served. Dinner hours are Monday-Saturday, 5:30 until 9:30 or 10pm, depending on the crowd. There is a late bar menu served until midnight.

★★ YAMASHIRO

1999 North Sycamore Avenue
☎ 323-466-5125
www.yamashirola.com
American/Asian
Expensive

Yamashiro is on a hilltop, just a few blocks behind Grauman's Chinese Theatre, and has views over the basin (for views from the restaurant, go online to www.earthcam.com; search for Yamashiro). We are not the only ones who come here because of the fabulous view. Manager Andy Ulloa told us that recent guests have included Ben Affleck, Johnny Depp, Faye Dunaway, Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Anjelica Huston, Penny Marshall, Gwyneth Paltrow, Dolly Parton, Joe Pesci, Rene Russo, George Clooney and Tim Allen.

The Gothic mansion below Yamashiro is the Magic Castle, a club for magicians.

Yamashiro is a sprawling, spread-out place. It could be full of stars and you wouldn't know it unless you happened to be sitting at the next table, which is why it is a favorite of many celebs. They don't have to sit in VIP rooms; they are simply not bothered here. The choice seats are on the lower tier by the windows, so sometime during the evening take a stroll along there and see who you might spot. But please keep going; don't make a big deal of it.

You might hear that Yamashiro was the home of silent film star Sessue Hayakawa (from *Family Souls*, 1916, and *Bridge on the River Kwai*). In fact, it was built in 1911 as a reproduction of a mountain palace near Kyoto, with imported antique walls and a 600-year-old pagoda. Later it became home to the exclusive "400 Club," a group of silent film stars and directors, including Bebe Daniels, Lillian

Gish and Ramon Novarro. At one time Richard Pryor and Pernell Roberts lived in apartments on the grounds.

Yamashiro has shown up in countless movies to indicate "Now we are in Japan." It was the officers' club in *Sayonara*, and was seen in TV series such as *I Spy*, *Route 66*, *Perry Mason* and *My Three Sons*. More recent shoots include *Gone in 60 Seconds*, *Blind Date*, *A Thousand Men and a Baby* and a Toni Braxton video. The restaurant is often used as a setting for premiere and wrap parties, recently *Lethal Weapon 4*, *Rush Hour* and *3rd Rock from the Sun.*

Appetizers include an extensive list of sushi and sashimi; entrées include lamb chops, tuna and chicken, all done with an Asian (not just Japanese) touch.

Yamashiro means "mountain palace."

To get here (it is not actually on Sycamore and can be bewildering to find the first time), you can turn off Franklin onto a private road that twists uphill when you see the Magic Castle sign, but we find it easier to go a block farther west to the street marked Sycamore and follow that twisting road uphill. Dinner is served Sunday-Thursday, 5:30 to 10pm; Friday and Saturday, 5:30 to 11pm.When you make a reservation ask for a window table. We suggest you get here early to give yourself time to stroll through the exquisite gardens that cover the hillside, accented with pagodas and miniature trees and pools filled with koi.

Casual Dining

★★ PINK'S

711 La Brea Avenue
☎ 323-931-4223 (for recorded directions)
☎ 323-931-7594 (to speak to a live person)
Hot dogs, hamburgers, burritos
Inexpensive

At Pink's, ask for extra chili or extra cheese – they pile it high.

When you first see Pink's, you are not going to believe it is a place where you would ever find a celebrity. It looks like an ordinary hot dog stand. And it *is* a hot dog stand, but not ordinary. In 1939 the late Paul and Betty Pink bought a pushcart for $50 and set it up here. This was all vacant land then, so they had to rig up a *looonnnng* extension

cord for their steamer and plug it in at a friendly hardware store a block away.

The current little building dates from 1946. By then, word had gotten around about how good the hot dogs were and celebrities were already dropping by. Michael Jackson first came here when he was a child. Richard and Gloria Pink, the son and daughter-in-law of the original owners, run the stand now, and celebrities are still dropping by.

Maybe the draw is the Hoffy 100% beef Kosher dog the Pinks have been serving since 1939. There is also a spicy Polish dog, a pastrami Reuben dog, a guacamole dog – 21 kinds in all, plus burgers (including a turkey dog and turkey burger).

Sandra Bullock comes here; so do Goldie Hawn, Jay Leno and John Malkovich. They say Bruce Willis proposed to Demi Moore here, and Orson Welles ate 18 of Pink's dogs at one sitting (still the record). Pink's sent hot dogs to Las Vegas for Diana Ross, to Tom Hanks for a wrap party, and to Rosie O'Donnell for her studio audience. Pink's was featured in Eddie Murphy's *Golden Boy*.

Not long ago, a television interviewer was talking to Gloria Pink on the air. Just as he skeptically asked if stars *really* ate here, Bill Cosby drove up, walked over to the counter and ordered 13 chili dogs to go.

We drove by here the other night about 7pm on our way to Yamashiro's and there was a crowd on the sidewalk. We went by again about 9:30 and there was *still* a crowd. There *always* seems to be a crowd. If you have a sudden yen for heartburn in the middle of the night, they are open till 2am; until 3am Friday and Saturday.

Shop Till You Drop

I can't wait forever for those shoes!

– The Wicked Witch of the West
(Margaret Hamilton), *The Wizard of Oz*

Melrose Avenue

One thing has been certain for a long time: whatever fashion is going to be hot and hip in the rest of the country six months or a year from now, is already happening on Melrose. This is the heart of young, trendy Los Angeles. The blocks of Melrose roughly from La Brea Avenue to just past Fairfax Avenue are the first destination of whole planeloads of young, fashion-hungry tourists. Many shops on the eastern strip, from La Brea to Fairfax, are less expensive than those in the western section. Just walk up one side and down the other; the shops are packed in, one jammed against the next. This is where you will find polite and knowledgeable clerks with lavender spiked hair and rings in their ears, noses, tongues, lips and belly buttons, one or all at the same time. In any case, though it may get strange, it is always lots of fun. Most shops on Melrose are open daily, usually 11am-8pm.

If you miss the news from your home town, ***Global Newsstand*** *at Melrose and Hayward has newspapers and magazines from many US cities and countries worldwide.*

THE SHOPPING MELROSE AVENUE TEST

Here is a test we have devised to see if you are ready to shop Melrose. Ask yourself if you will be 1) delighted, 2) tolerant, or 3) horrified by massive manifestations of black leather pants, visible tattoos, see-through belly shirts (crop-tops), body piercings, green hair, and thigh-high stiletto boots. If you answer 3) to any of the above perhaps you would like the Beverly Place Mall (Beverly and La Cienega) better.

Japanese sometimes seems like the lingua franca on Melrose Avenue.

★ TIP

Bring plenty of quarters – the parking enforcers mean business!

Between La Brea and Fairfax

★★ RED BALLS ON FIRE
7365 Melrose Avenue
☎ 323-655-3409

How au courant can one be? Well, Patricia Field, costume designer for Sarah Jessica Parker's character, Carrie, on HBO's *Sex and the City*, said if she were shopping in Los Angeles instead of New York, she would come to Red Balls on Fire for new things. Various celebs drop in here, from Nicolas Cage to Dennis Rodman; it is popular with bands, such as Motley Crüe.

WASTELAND
7620 Melrose Avenue
☎ 323-461-4445

RocketBaby Sleeves are sold only at Wasteland; they cost from $18 to $40 a pair.

Wasteland sells mostly "rediscovered" clothing. Buyer Evan Hughes says he is a sucker for bad '80s clothes. This is the place to find a denim jacket with its sleeves hacked off and Motley Crüe hand-painted on the back, or a reversible Chinese silk jacket. Another Wasteland exclusive is Rocket-Baby Sleeves, made to go with sleeveless summer wear. Fiona Apple, songstress and MTV fashion plate, wore a long-fringed, over-the-shoulder fuchsia set for a concert at the Wiltern Theatre. Now actresses Claire Danes, Alyssa Milano and Julianne Moore sport them. Micki Oberdorfer, who came to Melrose and Wasteland from St. Louis, created the fad and makes them herself.

West Melrose

West Melrose starts at about Fairfax and runs just a few blocks. This stretch used to be solidly antique stores and flower shops; now there are high-fashion boutiques, some of which are spin-offs from New York or Europe.

★ TIP

Expect high prices and small sizes. A recent fashion article in the *Los Angeles Times* said, "This is where those who are too rich and too thin come to stay too gorgeous."

Two-hour street parking is available on Melrose – if you are very lucky – and on most cross-streets. Patience is a virtue here.

★★ RUBY MAE
7975½ Melrose Avenue
☎ 323-651-4086

You might bump into the likes of Cher, Penelope Cruz, Jennifer Lopez or Lisa Marie Presley examining the sexy clothes reminiscent of 1940s screen sirens. Printed T-shirts at $58 give a hint of the price range.

FANTASIES COME TRUE
8012 Melrose Avenue
☎ 323-655-2636

This store has everything to remind you of Disney's movies, starting with 50¢ Disney-character baseball cards and topping off at $3,000 for *101 Dalmatians* figurines. Something for every tot in between.

MIU MIU
8025 Melrose Avenue
☎ 323-651-0072

Italian designer Miuccia Prada has plenty of fans among the Hollywood hip who can afford his trend-setting line. If a top (at perhaps $270) and skirt ($550) tempt you, there are bags, shoes and even lingerie to accessorize with. This is the only Miu Miu shop in the US to carry menswear.

Miu Miu has limited parking.

★★ FRED SEGAL MELROSE
8100 Melrose Avenue
☎ 323-651-1800

Fred Segal carries the collections of international designers, along with those of up-and-coming local ones. Don't get run over by stars arriving in limos, shopping for his

funky high-fashion men's, women's and kids' clothes and accessories. Parking is free in the lot behind the store.

> **★ TIP**
>
> Fred Segal Melrose has the only quick-service café around, a good place to grab a bite while resting your by-now-tired feet.

★★ DECADES
8214 Melrose Avenue
☎ 323-655-0223

Resale sounds like buying tacky used clothing in some thrift shop, right? Not here. Trust us, Decades is high-end hip. Winona Ryder once hauled around 200 items into the shop so owner Cameron Silver could donate them to an auction for U2's Third World Relief Fund. She is size 2, they tell us, and those were for auction, but there is a lot more here for retail sale.

Specialty Shopping

A single-strap tank top is called a "bambi."

While the primary shopping area of Hollywood, known around the world, is Melrose Avenue, here and there you will find wee nooks and crannies with bits of interesting loot to carry away.

Hollywood Boulevard

OUTFITTERS WIG CO.
6626 Hollywood Boulevard
☎ 323-462-3088

There are five or six wiggeries along Hollywood Boulevard, mostly selling to the general populace (the most popular style at those is the Marilyn Monroe look); Outfitters Wig Co. is the one that does business primarily with the studios and independent productions. The walls are filled with signed photos of celebrities in drag.

HOLLYWOOD MAGIC STORE
6614 Hollywood Boulevard
☎ 323-464-5610

Magic tricks are for sale here, from simple to mind-boggling, for both the professional and the amateur.

HOLLYWOOD TOYS & COSTUMES
6600 Hollywood Boulevard
☎ 323-464-4444

You can choose from a staggering variety of toys, everything from a simple checkerboard to a full-size R2D2.

★ HABLA ESPAÑOL?

Espresso Mi Cultura, 5625 Hollywood Boulevard, ☎ 323-461-0808, has coffee, Chicano-Latino books, folk art and gift items.

Vine Street

★ **IRISH IMPORT SHOP**
738 North Vine Street
☎ 323-412-8922

This wee bit of Ireland tucked away in a nondescript strip mall just north of Melrose and south of Hollywood Boulevard is a destination for something special: claddagh rings. This is especially the case since they were featured on an episode of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. These traditional Celtic rings, used in weddings or as a token of friendship, feature a crowned heart held by two hands; here, they go for $349.

But *shure an begorra*, you will find enough goods from Eire to tempt a leprechaun, including gooseberry jam, *Riverdance* tap shoes and fishermen's sweaters.

Just before St. Patrick's Day, Irish expatriates head to the Irish Import Shop from all over Southern California.

La Brea Avenue

JERRY SOLOMON
960 La Brea Avenue
☎ 323-851-7241

We guarantee you have never heard of Jerry Solomon. He has been in business 42 years and has yet to advertise, and his off-the-street walk-in traffic is zero. But if you have a good painting that needs framing someone might tell you about him.

Art museums, galleries and interior designers know about Solomon; so do individual collectors like Jack Nicholson and Barbra Streisand, and artists such as David Hockney, who has been known to come into the studio and paint on the frames around his pieces. Jerry Solomon is open Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:30pm.

★ TIP

Jerry Solomon says, "It's not about the frame; it's about the art. If you're not aware of the frame, then it's a good framing job." A point to remember.

Sunset Boulevard

SAMUEL FRENCH BOOKSHOP
7623 Sunset Boulevard (west of La Brea)
☎ 323-876-0570; fax 323-876-6822
www.samuelfrench.com

This stretch of Sunset Boulevard is too far east to be part of The Strip (that is in West Hollywood).

If being in Hollywood has inspired you to want to know more about its history; or if you're thinking, in a moment of madness, about becoming an actor yourself, here is a place to fill in some of the blanks. This shop, which has been here since 1947, is owned by Samuel French, Inc. of New York, which has published plays for over 170 years. The shop is open Monday-Friday, 10am-6pm; Saturday,

10am-4pm. Parking is available on the street, and in a small lot in the rear.

★ TIP

For wannabe screen writers, Samuel French has books of collected screenplays, books on how to write screenplays and books about why, alas, you are blocked from writing a screenplay.

HOLLYWOOD SHEET MUSIC
7777 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 323-850-1075

This wonderful little store is included because no one under the age of 99 has ever seen a sheet music shop. They haven't existed in most towns for 70 years or more, but we have one in Hollywood because the movies and the music business need a place like this. Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, noon-5pm.

Los Feliz District

★★ **SKYLIGHT BOOKS**
1818 North Vermont Avenue
☎ 323-660-1175
www.skylightbooks.com

A few blocks north of Sunset is the ultimate neighborhood bookstore that everyone knows. Buddy Ebsen was there one night not too long ago (yes, *that* Buddy Ebsen – the one who danced with Shirley Temple in *Captain January* and then spanned the decades to *Beverly Hillbillies* and *Barnaby Jones*). Now a nonagenarian, he was talking about a novel he had just written. A week later Margaret Cho, the stand-up and TV comedian, was there signing her new book. Skylight keeps from getting crushed by the mega-bookstores by sponsoring these events on a regular basis. Get Skylight's quarterly newsletter and you will see a half-dozen or more personal appearances by authors each month; in addition to signings, a half-dozen book groups meet here, everything from the Sisterhood Lesbian Book

Club to a brave group that does nothing but discuss James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Open seven days, 10am-10pm.

JOE BLASCOE MAKE-UP CENTER
1670 Hillhurst Avenue
☎ 323-467-4949

The Make-Up Center trains Academy Award-winning make-up artists, and offers courses in make-up and hair styling for film and television. You may not want to take classes in old age, monster, bald cap or injury simulation, where you learn to create liver spots, broken capillaries, broken noses and bullet holes. But the retail store selling professional cosmetics is open to the public on weekdays, 9am-4:30pm.

Sunup to Sundown

Hollywood Boulevard Walk of Fame

Most of the places you want to see in Los Angeles are spread out from downtown to the beach, so you need to drive or take public transportation. One of the few exceptions is Hollywood Boulevard, where it is better to walk.

The easy way to get to Hollywood Boulevard from downtown Los Angeles is via the **Metro Red Line Subway** that runs from Union Station or Seventh and Flower downtown to North Hollywood. There are two Hollywood Boulevard stops: one is at Argyle Avenue (the east end) and the other is at Highland (near the Chinese Theatre and its footprints). The ride takes about 20 minutes from downtown, or about five minutes from the Lankershim Boulevard station in the San Fernando Valley. Fare is $1.35 one-way.

★ TIP

If you drive, you'll need to park. Metered street parking is available at 25¢ per 30 minutes, with a one-hour limit. Hard-to-find free parking and lots are on side streets off Hollywood Boulevard.

The section of the boulevard known as the Walk of Fame extends from La Brea Avenue, at the west end, to Argyle Avenue, a block east of Vine; this is 15 blocks along the north side of the boulevard and 12 blocks along the south side.

There are 2,472 stars embedded in Hollywood Boulevard; only about 300 are still blank.

Seeing Stars

The name Walk of Fame was tagged on in 1958 when the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, trying to put some pizzazz back into the fading street, began its project of embedding star-shaped brass plaques in the sidewalk along both sides of the boulevard and a half-block north and south on Vine.

At first the Chamber of Commerce decided who would get a star and installed 1,558 of them. The procedure now is for someone (usually a star's publicity person, a studio about to release a big picture, or a fan club) to petition the Chamber; a committee representing the entertainment industries screens potential honorees on the basis of longevity in the field of entertainment, awards they have received and charitable contributions they have made to the community (or so they say). The petitioner pays a $15,000 sponsorship fee to cover expenses and maintenance. See the *Calendar* section of the *Los Angeles Times* for announcements of when stars will be on hand to dedicate their plaques in the Walk of Fame. Because there are five categories (movies, recordings, radio, television and theater), some individuals have more than one star, although only Gene Autry has all five.

Gene Autry's star for theater was awarded for his personal appearances at rodeos an' such-like.

It seems there have been times when the Chamber of Commerce relaxed its own rules: there are stars honoring

the Apollo Astronauts, and advice-to-the-worried columnist Ann Landers got one on Valentine's Day in 2001 because years ago she read her stuff on the radio. Who remembers?

Around 24 names are added every year to the Walk of Fame.

The stars in the sidewalks begin between Sycamore Avenue and El Cerrito Place, just east of La Brea Avenue. Our walk starts here. You may decide to walk up one side of the boulevard and down the other in order to see all the stars in the pavement, as well as the other sights along the way. If you'd like a list that tells where on the boulevard each plaque is, pick one up at the Visitors Information Center (see below), or contact the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, 7018 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, CA 90028, ☎ 323-469-8311, www.hollwoodcoc.org. There is no charge for any of the maps.

VISITORS INFORMATION CENTER
THE JANES HOUSE
6541 Hollywood Boulevard
☎ 213-689-8822

The Janes House is the last of the Victorian mansions that lined Hollywood Boulevard in the early days of the 20th century.

This is the place to get a map of Hollywood, a map to movie stars' homes, or a list of the stars on the Walk of Fame, and the answers to practically anything else you want to know about Hollywood. Information by phone is available in English, French, German, Japanese and Spanish; the center is open Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm.

WALKING THE BOULEVARD

Red Line Tours offers an excellent 1¼-hour walking tour of Hollywood Boulevard, which goes inside the Egyptian and El Capitan theaters and thoroughly explores the history and architecture of Old Hollywood and the movies. Tours begin at 10 and 11am, 2 and 4pm daily. Cost is $20 for adults; $18 for seniors; $15 for children nine to 16; under nine, free. Call ☎ 323-402-1074.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The celebrity honoree must promise to show up for the installation ceremony, or no star.

Polishing the Stars

It wouldn't do to go see Marilyn Monroe's star and find wads of gum stuck to it, so the city applies a weekly power wash to the sidewalks and all 2,472 of the stars. The Hollywood Entertainment District pitches in on the cost of upkeep, some stores along the boulevard keep the ones outside their own doors shiny, and sometimes fans or fan clubs adopt a star.

John Peterson is probably the only person who knows from memory where every one of the named stars are.

As you walk along you might see John Peterson, who's usually out there shining the stars with his glass cleaner, bronze polish and soft cloth. John lost a leg in childhood and worked as a repairman in a television shop on Los Feliz most of his adult life until the place closed in 1996. Unable to get another job, he started polishing the stars on the boulevard, "because they needed it," depending for income on tips from appreciative shopkeepers. He became such a well-known fixture he was finally put on salary.

Stop and chat when you see him with his Hollywood Entertainment District T-shirt, down on the sidewalk polishing a star. John will be happy to tell you anything about the boulevard.

Walking The Boulevard

CARMEN MIRANDA SQUARE
Sycamore Street & Hollywood Boulevard

For those too young to remember, Carmen Miranda was a Brazilian singer who was big in movie musicals, back when there was such a thing as movie musicals; she is easily remembered by her extravagant hats that sprouted bananas and pineapples and such. Her first big picture, the one everyone remembers, was *Down Argentine Way*.

About 70 Brazilian diplomats gathered here when the sign naming the square was installed.

★ HOLLYWOOD ENTERTAINMENT MUSEUM

7021 Hollywood Boulevard
(Hollywood Galaxy, lower level)
☎ 323-465-7900

This museum celebrates Hollywood as a place, as well as the entertainment arts of film, television, radio and recording. There are interactive exhibits, some permanent and some new, and memorabilia; one feature is the entire collection from the Max Factor Museum, which closed several years ago. There is the Starship Enterprise set from *Star Trek* and one from the most famous bar in the nation, *Cheers*.

In July and August the museum is open daily, 10am-6pm; from September through June it is open daily except Wednesday, 11am-6pm; open all holidays except Christmas. Admission is $7.50 for adults; $4.50 for seniors (60+) and students; $4 for children five-12; under five, free (CityPass accepted, see page 147). Parking under the building is $2 with Museum validation (entrance on Sycamore Avenue).

★ HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT HOTEL

7000 Hollywood Boulevard
☎ 323-466-7000, 800-950-7667
www.hollywoodroosevelt.com

The architectural style of the Hollywood Roosevelt is Spanish Colonial.

This historic gem was built in 1926 across Hollywood Boulevard from Grauman's Chinese Theatre, and was an immediate hit with the film crowd. The décor includes lots of tile and wrought iron. A remarkably lifelike Charlie Chaplin seated on a bench is the first thing you will see as you come in. The room to your left as you enter is the **Cinegrill**, a popular cabaret (see page 177). Dozens of stars have performed here. George Liberace, Liberace's brother, led the band here for many years, and lived in the penthouse at the top of the hotel.

The tiled staircase directly across the lobby from the Cinegrill is, so legend tells us, where Bill "Bojangles" Robinson taught Shirley Temple the step dance they did in

The Little Colonel. Since Marilyn Monroe's death, her image, faint and ghostly, has appeared to various people in the tall mirror at the end of the short corridor just to the right, by the elevators. Of course, this being Hollywood, it is possible that some ordinary ghost is grabbing the spotlight and making people think she is Monroe. But it is true Marilyn spent many nights in the Cinegrill.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Marilyn Monroe's first modeling job was a picture of her in a bathing suit by the Hollywood Roosevelt pool.

Perhaps the most historic place in Hollywood is the **Blossom Room**, the big room off the balcony above the lobby. This is where the first Academy Awards were held in 1929. The event started with a dinner in those days. On that first momentous evening, the awards went to *Wings*, for best picture; Janet Gaynor for best actress (*Seventh Heaven, Street Angel, Sunrise*); and Emil Jannings for best actor (*Way of All Flesh, Last Command*). The room is still used for special events, though it hasn't housed the Academy Awards since 1931.

The balcony itself has been turned into a museum of the early days of motion picture history, especially the silent film era, with photos and artifacts. Give yourself time to browse.

There are many stories about the hotel's past. David Niven relates that when he arrived in Hollywood and was trying to crash the movies, broke and with no place to live, the reception clerk took pity on him and let him stay for practically nothing in a tiny room situated between a noisy elevator and the primitive, very loud air conditioning machinery. He was grateful to have any place at all until he started getting acting jobs.

Montgomery Clift lived here while he was shooting *From Here to Eternity*. He drove the other guests crazy by incessantly practicing the trumpet in the hall. A number of people have heard the sound of a ghostly trumpet in that hall in the years since his death.

Up on the top floor is the **Gable-Lombard Suite**, number 1200, where Clark Gable and Carole Lombard had a regular weekend tryst while he was divorcing his second wife. The hotel's owner lives in the Gable-Lombard suite now; it used to cost $1,200 a night.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Hollywood is full of ghosts. There are at least three in the Hollywood Roosevelt.

★ **GRAUMAN'S CHINESE THEATRE**
6925 Hollywood Boulevard
☎ 323-461-3331
www.manntheatres.com

Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell put their handprints side by side in the Chinese Theatre Forecourt in 1953.

Sid Grauman, the consummate showman, built this most opulent of movie houses, and named it the Chinese Theatre. It is big, with 1,492 seats; the acoustics are perfect, and décor is lush, even for the 1920s. Over the years, many pictures premiered here. In the days of silent films, Grauman staged lavish shows, some with chorus lines of 40 or more girls, each designed specifically to go along with the film being shown. Since 1927, there have been nearly 200 handprints, footprints, signatures and, in the case of Jimmy Durante, a noseprint, pressed into wet cement in the Forecourt of the Stars. Whenever an imprint is about to take place, there will be a story in the *Calendar* section of the *Los Angeles Times* beforehand. It is probably the single most visited spot in Southern California; many tours leave from here. The Forecourt is open 24 hours a day with no charge. Call for movie ticket information.

EL CAPITAN THEATRE
6838 Hollywood Boulevard
☎ 323-467-7674

Built in 1926 for live theater, the El Capitan, with its East Indian-style interior, is probably the most beautiful movie house in Hollywood – perhaps in Los Angeles. Gertrude Lawrence opened it in *Charlot's Review*; in later years Buster Keaton, Clark Gable and Rita Hayworth were fea-

tured in live productions. It became a movie theater with the world premiere of *Citizen Kane* in 1941. Disney owns it now, and has refurbished it beautifully. It is a great place to see a movie.

★ **KODAK THEATRE**
In the Hollywood & Highland Complex
☎ 310-247-3020
www.oscars.org

This big, newly built structure is the first permanent home for the Academy Awards ceremonies. In the same complex you will also find the 22-story, 640-room Renaissance Hollywood Hotel (see page 121); a broadcast studio; and lots of retail stores. Oscar's new theater has 3,300 seats and is appropriately sumptuous. The building also contains a 35,000-square-foot ballroom, which will house the Governor's Ball, where everyone touches base after the Academy Awards and before the chosen ones go on to much more exclusive parties. Two plaster elephants rear up on pedestals above the Babylon Courtyard at the center of the complex, a reminder that D.W. Griffith's gigantic set for *Intolerance* once stood nearby on Sunset Boulevard.

★ **HOLLYWOOD MOVIE POSTERS**
6727-6731 Hollywood Boulevard
Between Las Palmas & Highland Avenues
☎ 323-463-1792

This is a fascinating place, with great original posters for sale, along with black-and-white and color stills, press kits, press books and monster magazines. If you have any questions, especially about the sci-fi and horror genres, Ron Borst really knows what he is about; he wrote the book – *Graven Images*. Open Monday-Saturday, 11:30am-5pm.

★ **EGYPTIAN THEATRE**
AMERICAN CINEMATHEQUE
6712 Hollywood Boulevard
☎ 323-466-FILM (3456)
www.egyptiantheatre.com

Legendary theater owner Sid Grauman had already built the Million Dollar Theater in downtown Los Angeles, but there was no grand movie palace in Hollywood until he opened the Egyptian in 1922, on the site of what had been a five-acre lemon ranch. Grauman, wanting something exotic, chose an Egyptian theme. The forecourt was 150 feet long, with towering statues of the Egyptian god Isis. Tall, muscled "warriors" garbed in ancient Egyptian costumes and carrying scimitars patrolled the battlements on the roof overlooking the street.

The grand opening was celebrated with the first movie premiere to be held in Hollywood, for *Robin Hood*, starring Douglas Fairbanks. Premieres in subsequent years included De Mille's *The Ten Commandments* (1923), and *The Thief of Bagdad* with Fairbanks (1924). The last big star-studded premiere was *Funny Girl* (1968). The following years were tough on the neighborhood, and on the theater, which closed in 1992.

The City of Los Angeles bought The Egyptian Theatre and sold it for $1 to the non-profit foundation American Cinematheque with the promise that the theater would be restored to its original grandeur. It has reopened as a movie-lover's dream house, showing everything from Hollywood classics to new films from every part of the world, with opportunities for the public to meet actors, writers and directors.

A good introduction to Hollywood and the Egyptian is *Forever Hollywood*, an hour-long film that celebrates a century of movie-making, related by two dozen stars and filmmakers; it screens Saturday and Sunday, at 2 and 3:30pm; there is an 11:45am screening during public tours on one Saturday and one Sunday each month. The dates of these additional screenings vary, so call ahead. Admission to the screening is $7 for adults; $5 for seniors and students. General admission to most films at Cinematheque is $8 for adults; $7 for seniors 65+ and students. Tours of the theater are $5 and can be combined with a screening of

Forever Hollywood, for $10 (CityPass accepted, see below). Parking validation (partial) for several lots.

★ TIP

If you plan to visit more than one or two attractions, you can save money and time by buying a **CityPass** ($49.75 for adults, $38 for children three to 11) at the first attraction you visit. It's good for nine days, and covers admission to Universal Studios, the Egyptian Theatre, the Hollywood Entertainment Museum, the Autry Museum, and several other attractions. It's a bargain: admission to Universal Studios alone is $43.

★ LAS PALMAS HOTEL
1750 North Las Palmas Avenue

Take a look to your left as you cross Las Palmas and you will see the spot where Julia Roberts hung out, plying the tricks of her trade, before she caught the eye of Richard Gere and moved to Beverly Hills in *Pretty Woman*.

★★ MUSSO & FRANK'S GRILL
6667 Hollywood Boulevard
☎ 323-467-7788

There is so much to tell about Musso's. It is by far the oldest café in Hollywood; it was founded by Joseph Musso and Frank Toulet in 1919 when there wasn't much else on the Boulevard. In 1926 the partners sold out to Joseph Carissimi and John Mosso (different spelling, different man). The place is run by those two families to this day.

Probably everyone who was anyone in the movie business has eaten here. Mary Pickford, Claudette Colbert, Bette Davis, Cesar Romero, Edward G. Robinson, H.B. Warner, Greta Garbo, Bing Crosby, Alan Hale. John Barrymore did some of his legendary drinking here. Mack Sennett came every day; people still ask for Charlie Chaplin's booth in the corner by the window, facing the boulevard (on the

days he couldn't make it he sent his chauffeur to pick up his lunch and bring it back to his studio on La Brea).

HISTORIC NOTE

In 1919 there was an avocado grove across the street from Musso's all the way down to Sunset, eucalyptus trees in the back parking lot and a gentle stream running down what is now Franklin Avenue.

Even more than for actors, Musso's has always been a writer's place. Until a few years ago there was a bookstore next door where all the writers working at the studios and laboring over novels met. Nathaniel West lived in an apartment on Ivar and could be found here while he was writing his fiercely anti-Hollywood novel, *Day of the Locust*. Others who frequented Musso's include Bill Lippman (*Little Miss Marker*); Scott Fitzgerald when he was writing *Tender is the Night*; occasionally Thomas Wolfe; Elliott Paul; William Faulkner; Max Brand; Jo Pagano; John Fante, and Ernest Hemingway.

DID YOU KNOW?

Matt Drudge, the Internet gossip, had his apartment just a few steps from here before he moved to luxury digs in Miami. He used Musso's like his own dining room and did his interviews in one of its booths.

★ **LARRY EDMUNDS BOOK STORE**
6644 Hollywood Boulevard
☎ 323-463-3273

This bookstore has been here as long as we can remember, and for all that time has been the place to come for stuff about Hollywood. You will find the largest collection of film- and theater-related books in Los Angeles, plus thousands of black-and-white photos and stills from famous

and forgotten films. You'll find posters, too. Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm.

★ **FREDERICK'S OF HOLLYWOOD**
6608 Hollywood Boulevard
☎ 323-466-8506

You can't miss it, as the building is painted a delicious slut-purple. Frederick's is practically world-famous for its lingerie guaranteed to revive any marriage, no matter how dull. But we are here to see the **Celebrity Lingerie Museum**, which features items such as Cher's bra, Mae West's peignoir, Madonna's pointy corset, and Tony Curtis' brassiere from *Some Like It Hot*. It's a hoot, and it's free. Open Monday-Friday, 10am-9pm; Saturday, 10am-7pm; Sunday, 11am-6pm.

THE PERFECT LITTLE GIFT

The "Marabou-trim Babydoll," designed by founder Frederick Mellinger in the mid '50s, is the bestseller. Adapted from a French lingerie style, it has a short, sheer nylon body, feather trim at hem and breast, with spaghetti straps. This style was worn by Cindy Margolis and other "Fembots" in *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery*. Price, $38.

WARNER PACIFIC THEATRE
6423-6445 Hollywood Boulevard

Before the anti-trust laws stepped in, when Warner Bros. owned hundreds of movie houses nationwide, the Warner Pacific Theatre, at Hollywood Boulevard and Wilcox Avenue, was their flagship. But nobody cares about that now; the theater is famous because Carol Burnett was an usherette here in the 1940s. At the moment it is closed.

SECURITY TRUST & SAVINGS
6381-6385 Hollywood Boulevard

This bank has been on the northeast corner of Hollywood and Cahuenga since the 1920s. It is where Charlie Chaplin banked, as did the slightly paranoid W.C. Fields, who

had accounts under several names. But most important, Philip Marlowe had his office upstairs. Author Raymond Chandler called it the Cahuenga Building in his books set in a *noir* Hollywood of the '30s. That's why this intersection is named Raymond Chandler Square. (You will find the plaque on the southeast corner.)

★ **PANTAGES THEATRE**
6233 Hollywood Boulevard at Argyle Avenue
☎ 213-365-5555 tickets

The Pantages was the location of the Academy Awards from 1949 to 1959.

The Pantages was built as as a movie palace in 1930, back when going to see a motion picture was still a special experience. This is where many of the big, kleig-lit premiers were held. The décor is art deco and the 18-foot-high lobby is a riot of architectural details, including a statue of a movie director standing behind his cameraman. It was converted into a legitimate theater in 1978 and is now one of the prime Los Angeles houses in which to see big musicals.

Ivar Avenue

1817 IVAR AVENUE
Go one block east of Cahuenga and turn left to find the house where Nathaniel West lived while he was writing the classic Hollywood novel, *The Day of the Locust*. He divided the rest of his time between hanging out at Musso & Frank's and writing screenplays (*Ticket to Paradise*, *It Could Happen to You*, *Five Came Back*, *I Stole a Million* and *Let's Make Music*).

1851 IVAR AVENUE
Cross Yucca Street and continue along Ivar; you might recognize the Alto Nido Apartments as the rundown building where Joe Gillis (William Holden) lived before he splashed into Norma Desmond's (Gloria Swanson) pool in *Sunset Boulevard*.

FILM GLOSSARY

Script Supervisor – The person responsible for ensuring that the film matches the script – and itself – in terms of detail and continuity; e.g., that an actor who starts a scene wearing a red tie has the same tie on when shooting resumes, perhaps days later, and not a blue one.

1850 IVAR AVENUE

Across the street from the Alto Nido is the Spanish-style house where Marie Dressler lived. She was in Greta Garbo's first talkie, Eugene O'Neill's *Anna Christie*; George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber's *Dinner at Eight*, where she had a classic comedy scene with Jean Harlow; and a series of *Tugboat Annie* films with Wallace Beery.

1714 IVAR AVENUE

As you head back toward Hollywood Boulevard you'll see the **Knickerbocker Hotel**; a lot of faded glory resides here. It was built in 1925, at the height of what some call Hollywood's Golden Age, to meet the housing needs of the swarms of actors and would-be actors arriving daily.

Until he died in 1926, Rudolph Valentino rode his horse down Ivar on moonlit nights from Falcon Lair, his house in the hills, to drink at the Knickerbocker's bar and dance his seductive tango with oh-so-willing women. Bette Davis, Doris Day, Errol Flynn, Judy Garland, Cary Grant, Dick Powell, Frank Sinatra, Gloria Swanson and Orson Welles stayed in the suites at one time or another – some for long periods. The lovely and forlorn actress Frances Farmer lived here in 1943 when she was dragged out in confusion to be housed in a mental institution. In the mid-1950s Marilyn Monroe used to sneak in through the kitchen on her way to meet Joe DiMaggio in a dark corner of the bar.

D.W. Griffith, who made the movie business possible and then (after *Intolerance* in 1916) was ignored by the industry, died in the lobby in 1948. A plaque on the Knickerbocker marks it as Griffith's one-time home. Two years later Elvis Presley stayed here while he made his first

Valentino Place, a street in Hollywood, was named for Rudolph Valentino, and there is a bust of him in DeLongpre Park, south of Sunset Blvd. off Cherokee Avenue.

film, *Love Me Tender*. But by 1970 the place had faded; it is now a home for seniors.

★ **FRANCES HOWARD GOLDWYN BRANCH, HOLLYWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY**
1623 North Ivar Avenue
☎ 323-856-8260

Cross Hollywood Boulevard and go a half-block down Ivar to the Hollywood Public Library. Fittingly, it holds a large collection of books on movies and Hollywood. It's a good place to browse. The library is open Monday-Thursday, 10am-8pm; Friday and Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, 1-5pm.

★★ **HOLLYWOOD FARMERS' MARKET**
This block of Ivar (between Hollywood and Sunset, and along Selma from Vine Street to Cosmo) is closed to traffic on Sunday for an open-air farmers' market, where you will sometimes see celebrities. We noticed Janel Moloney among the great fresh fruit and vegetables, and Kirsten Dunst another time. Hey, actors have to eat, too! Open Sunday, 8:30am-1pm, come rain or shine. (Don't confuse this with The Farmers' Market, a permanent open-air mall at Beverly and Fairfax.)

Vine Street

Head back to Hollywood Boulevard and mosey a bit farther east; you are on the famed corner of Hollywood and Vine. What's to say, except to be in awe of the enduring power of hype over reality. There's nothing much of note here and, frankly, my dear, there never really was.

A light on the rooftop spire of the Capitol Records building flashes "H-O-L-L-Y-W-O-O-D" in Morse code.

CAPITOL RECORDS BUILDING
1750 Vine Street

Turn left onto Vine Street. Ahead is the Capitol Records Building; it has 13 stories and is shaped like a stack of records with a stylus in the groove on top. Nat "King" Cole, Frank Sinatra and The Beatles all recorded here. Gold albums are on display in the lobby; in the sidewalk out front

are stars with the names of Capitol Records' artists, including John Lennon.

PALACE THEATRE
1735 Vine Street

This theater, on the west side of Vine Street, was built in 1930 as a legitimate theater. Ken Murray's *Blackouts*, starring comedian Ken Murray and Marie Wilson (remember *My Friend Irma*?), played here all through World War II, packing 'em in at every show. From the early 1950s on it was the origination site for many TV shows like the *Colgate Comedy Hour*, *This is Your Life* and the *Lawrence Welk Show*. Now it's a venue for TV shoots, special events and occasional rock concerts.

HOLLYWOOD PLAZA HOTEL
1637 Vine Street

Walk on down Vine to the south side of Hollywood Boulevard. On the west side of Vine is the hotel where Ronald Reagan lived when he first hit town. Doris Day and Jackie Gleason once lived here (not together, we assume).

In 1937 Clara Bow installed the It Café on the ground floor to the left of the entrance; the café was only briefly "it" in a town of many short-lived endeavors. By the time we personally paid any attention to the hotel, much later, the bar was the Carousel, or something like that. The bar and its seated customers revolved around the bartenders, who stood in the middle. You could never tell if you'd had too much to drink or were just experiencing *mal de mer*.

At one time the hotel was a popular hang-out for hookers. Now it has become a senior citizen home. We assume the hookers have moved on.

THE DOOLITTLE THEATRE
1615 Vine Street
☎ 323-462-6666

The theater was originally the CBS Radio Playhouse. *Lux Radio Theater, Your Hit Parade* and many other shows were broadcast from here in the 1930s and '40s. During the 1950s and '60s it became the Huntington Hartford, a jewel of a legitimate theater. There was a dining room on

The Doolittle Theatre is now a Latino-oriented performing arts center owned by the Ricardo Montalban Nosotros Foundation.

the mezzanine level, where we used to go and often see celebrities also having dinner while we were dining and then, moments before the curtain went up, we would stroll to our theater seats.

SITE OF CECIL B. DE MILLE'S BARN

There is a plaque on the northeast corner of Vine and Selma commemorating the site where Cecil B. De Mille made *The Squaw Man* in 1913, first feature film shot in Hollywood, in a barn he had rented. Trouble is, like a lot of things in Hollywood, you can't believe everything you see. The actual barn was not here but on the southeast corner.

THE HOLLYWOOD CHRISTMAS PARADE

This parade is held each year on the first Sunday after Thanksgiving. The Grand Marshal is always a star, and up to 100 celebrities are sprinkled among other marchers. The parade follows a rectangular route on Hollywood Boulevard, Vine Street, Sunset Boulevard and La Brea Avenue. There are bleachers for onlookers on Hollywood Boulevard in the block from Orange to Highland; tickets are required. You may choose to stand along the route; people begin arriving early in the day at favored spots.

Hollywood's Christmas Parade is the largest celebrity parade in the world.

TV cameras are set up in front of the bleachers, and interviews and performances are televised. For tickets call Sharp Seating, ☎ 626-795-4171; tickets cost $22, $29 or $35. You can also buy guaranteed parking at the same time. An easy way to enjoy the day without a parking hassle is to come by Metro; exit at Highland for the bleachers, at Vine Street for the other end of the parade route. Contact the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, ☎ 323-469-8311, for more information, or check the parade Web site, www.hollywoodchristmas.com.

Elsewhere in Hollywood

HOLLYGROVE ORPHANAGE
1815 North El Centro Avenue

One block east of Vine Street between Melrose and Santa Monica is the place where Norma Jean Baker lived for two years. We remember her better as Marilyn Monroe. Hollygrove, Los Angeles' first privately run orphanage, opened in Chinatown in 1880 and was later moved to Hollywood and changed its name. Norma Jean's aunt put her here from 1935 to 1937, before she metamorphosed into MM.

WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND

There are plans, or at least talk, about Monroe's estate building a Marilyn Monroe Theatre at the Hollygrove Orphanage.

Now the debt is being repaid. During the time she was a star, Marilyn was also one of the best known students at Lee Strasberg's Group Theatre in New York. A couple of years ago, more than 30 years after her death, some of her effects were auctioned off at Christie's, enough to raise $13 million. Now, Anna Strasberg, who has looked after Marilyn's estate since Lee Strasberg died in 1982, has made a donation to Hollygrove.

HOLLYWOOD ATHLETIC CLUB
6525 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 323-462-6262

This was a very popular place to work out, especially in the 1920s and even in the '30s. Douglas Fairbanks Sr. and Rudolph Valentino were members, as were Johnny Weismuller and Buster Crabbe and, later, Edgar Bergen. Charlie McCarthy was an honorary member. These days it is used heavily for premiere parties, wrap parties and the like. At night various promoters turn it into a popular nightclub.

HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
1521 North Highland Avenue
☎ 323-461-3891

Hollywood High School's mascot is The Sheik; songleaders wear Arabic robes.

Just two blocks off Hollywood Boulevard at the corner of Sunset is perhaps the most famous high school in the country, simply because it is in Hollywood and so many kids who later became stars went here. Carol Burnett, James Garner, Jean Peters, Stefanie Powers, John Ritter, Jason Robards and Mickey Rooney are a few. Rick and David Nelson were students here when Ozzie and Harriet were shooting *Ozzie and Harriet* just a 10-minute walk away at Hollywood Center Studio on Las Palmas Avenue.

Not only soon-to-be actors went here. Warren Christopher attended, and delivered the *Hollywood Citizen-News* after school, as did one of the authors of this book (the author didn't grow up to become Secretary of State, though).

If your age is advanced enough you probably have heard about how Lana Turner was discovered while she was a student here. According to the story, she cut fifth period typing class and was sitting on a stool at the malt shop across Highland on the northeast corner of Sunset. Billy Wilkerson, publisher of the *Hollywood Reporter*, a movie-industry trade paper, spotted her and said something original like, "How would you like to be in the movies, kiddo?" She was probably wearing one of those popular sweaters, which makes the tale more credible; though any girl attending the school at the time would have had more sense than to go for a line like that. The malt shop was torn down long ago.

The phone at Hollywood High is answered in English, Spanish, Japanese and Armenian.

The art deco science and liberal arts buildings were built by the WPA in the 1930s. The school was once almost completely white; now, like most of Los Angeles, it is a mix of races and ethnic groups, everything from Armenian to, probably, Zairean. But, still reflecting the heritage of the celebrities who attended in the past, the school has an Academy of Performing Arts.

★ CHAPLIN STUDIO

(now Jim Henson Studio)
1416 North La Brea Avenue (between Sunset Boulevard and De Longpre Avenue)
☎ 323-802-1500

Charlie Chaplin, perhaps the only real genius in the history of filmmaking, made most of his films on this small lot. He could control every detail here. The lot originally extended to Sunset Boulevard; the corner was sold off after Chaplin was shamefully banished from this country in the 1950s. Herb Alpert used the lot as a recording studio for many years. Tours are not available at this writing.

★★ THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL

2301 N. Highland Avenue, at Hollywood Bowl Road
Information and tickets, ☎ 323-850-2000
Restaurant, ☎ 323-850-1885
www.hollywoodbowl.org

The Bowl, in a narrow canyon cut into the Hollywood Hills off the Hollywood Freeway, offers concerts and much, much more; it's a place to see celebrities by the score, picnicking in style. Here you will find that much-photographed concert shell, with great acoustics, facing a curved hillside covered with over 17,000 seats. The season runs July-September. There is a restaurant, Sunset Grill (reservations needed), and take-out places to get food to eat in the open air. Down front are the boxes, where the stars dine al fresco, especially on occasions like the opening night of the Los Angeles Philharmonic season in July.

★ TIP

Show up at 9am in summer to hear rehearsals. Sit anywhere. No celebrities – except the world-famous singers and musicians – and free! ☎ 323-850-2000; speak to an operator to confirm rehearsal dates and times.

WHERE TO GET A PICNIC BASKET

- **La Brea Bakery**, 624 South La Brea Avenue, Hollywood, ☎ 323-939-6813. $16-$18. Order day before or before 10am for late afternoon pickup.
- **Ammo**, 1155 North Highland Avenue, Hollywood, ☎ 323-871-2666. A la carte (salad $8, chicken sandwich $10), pick up curbside.
- **Basix**, 8333 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, ☎ 323-848-2460. $18-$35 in a gift basket. Order a day ahead.
- **Bistro Garden/BG To Go**, 12930 Ventura Boulevard, Studio City (San Fernando Valley), ☎ 828-FOOD-2-GO. Various baskets are available for $21 to $32.50 per person. Order at least an hour ahead.

JOHN ANSON FORD AMPHITHEATRE
2580 Cahuenga Boulevard
(cross over Hollywood Freeway)
☎ 323-461-3673

The Ford is a natural amphitheater on the east side of the Hollywood Freeway as it goes through Cahuenga Pass out of Hollywood. See page 183 for information about events held here.

LAKE HOLLYWOOD (HOLLYWOOD RESERVOIR)

Lake Hollywood, in the Hollywood Hills, just 10 minutes' drive above the Boulevard, is the lake that flooded Hollywood in Earthquake!

Lake Hollywood is not a natural lake; it is a reservoir that, in the past, supplied drinking water to a portion of Hollywood; the water in the lake now is simply held in reserve for emergencies, since two immense tanks to hold potable water were recently constructed underground. This beautiful, tree-lined lake has long been a popular place for filming, as it is much closer to reach than Lake Arrowhead way up in the San Bernardino Mountains. Most of the exteriors of the old comedy series *Camp Runamuck* were shot here, and Lake Hollywood played a big role in the movie *Earthquake*.

There is a walking and jogging path all around the fenced-in lake, a 3.2-mile loop with only a short stretch along a road with traffic. Part of it crosses Mulholland Dam and gives a good view of the Hollywood sign in the Hollywood Hills above to the east. The westernmost stretch of a finger of Griffith Park (see pages 164-175) reaches the lake.

To get here, take the Hollywood Freeway (101) or Cahuenga Boulevard out of Hollywood to Barham Boulevard, then right (east) a short distance to Lake Hollywood Drive; turn right. Street parking. There are several access gates through the fence. Gates generally open 6:30am-7:30pm, but call to check current times; ☎ 323-463-0830.

PETERSEN AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM
6060 Wilshire Boulevard (at Fairfax)
Los Angeles
☎ 323-930-CARS (2277)
www.petersen.org

Just south of Hollywood you can see famous vehicles on display that were owned by stars and used in movies, along with an array of milestone cars in US history. Open Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-6pm; closed Monday, except for major holidays. Admission is $7 for adults; $5 for seniors and students; $3 for children ages five-12.

ZIMMER CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
6505 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 100
Los Angeles
☎ 323-761-8989
www.zimmermuseum.org

The Zimmer is a great place for kids ages three to 11. There is a Piper Cub airplane to "fly," a space capsule, and a dozen "businesses," where they can play cook in the diner, or sell books at Bubbie's Bookstore or put on white coats and scrubs and play "rescue" from the real ambulance. Every exhibit is fun, yet each offers subtle lessons. Open Tuesday-Thursday and Sunday, 12:30 to 5pm. Admission is $5 for adults; $3 for children ages three to 12; free for children age two and under and for grandparents accompanied by a grandchild. It is on the ground floor of the Jewish Community Center, just south of Hollywood.

In the Hollywood Hills

Listen to them, children of the night! What music they make!

– Bela Lugosi, *Dracula*

THE ACKERMANSION
Forest Ackerman Museum of Horror and Science-Fiction Film History
Hollywood Hills above Los Feliz
☎ 323-666-6326

More than 50,000 science-fiction books, over 100,000 film stills, uncounted movie posters, a model dinosaur from the classic 1933 film *King Kong* – that's just the beginning in the 18-room mansion stuffed to the *Creature From The Black Lagoon's* gills with movie memorabilia.

Forest Ackerman is the man who coined the word "sci-fi."

Forest J. Ackerman, now 85, has been a horror-science fiction flick fan since he was nine. He was Isaac Asimov's literary agent, and L. Ron Hubbard's and Ray Bradbury's. He has appeared in more than 56 cameo film roles, so when he starts telling stories about Lon Chaney Jr. and Boris Karloff, you know you are getting it right from the Wolf Man's mouth, so to speak. Newspaper clippings and movie lobby cards share the walls with space aliens and robots, witches and warlocks. Don't miss the first edition of *Dracula*, signed by Bela Lugosi, Vincent Price and the curator of Dracula's castle in Transylvania. Open most Saturdays, 11am-noon (call for directions); admission is free.

THE HOLLYWOOD SIGN
Beachwood Drive

The world-famous Hollywood sign was erected in 1923 to publicize a land development there. The original said Hollywoodland, though the last four letters later blew down in a storm; the developers eventually blew away, too. When the Hollywood sign was lit at midnight, December 31, 1999, each letter glowed with 250,000 watts of light.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce holds the copyright on the sign now, and controls how it can be used in advertising and publicity. They are strict; for instance, they

vetoed covering the white letters with black spots to publicize the film *101 Dalmatians*. The Chamber has discovered that it can't control everything, though. On one occasion, college students modified the sign to say "Hollyweed," and "Olliewood" appeared during the Iran-Contra scandal starring Oliver North. To reach the sign, go two blocks north of Hollywood Boulevard to Franklin Avenue, then turn right and continue to Beachwood Drive. The sign has its own Web site, www.HollywoodSign.org.

In 1987, the Hollywood Sign was changed to read HOLYWOOD in honor of Pope John Paul II's visit to Los Angeles.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The peak that is the home of the Hollywood sign is called Mt. Lee. Mack Sennett of *Keystone Kops* and bathing beauty movies fame once owned it, but never built a house there as he planned. That low, white building on top, just above it, was the first experimental television station in Los Angeles, one of the first in the country.

CHATEAU ELYSEE
5310 Franklin Avenue

If you continue past Beachwood on Franklin you will see a longtime Hollywood treasure that is now an official historic landmark. It was known as the Château Elysée, a celebrity hotel and hideaway when it was built by Eleanor Ince in 1927. She was the widow of Thomas Ince, the pioneer film producer who died under mysterious circumstances on William Randolph Hearst's yacht one dark and stormy night.

It was widely believed that Thomas Ince was killed by Hearst in a dispute over Hearst's significant other, movie star Marion Davies. In any case, Hearst afterward reportedly put up the money for the hotel.

Those who have stayed here at one time or another in the apartment-style accommodations include Humphrey Bogart, Errol Flynn, Clark Gable, Lillian Gish, Carole Lombard, Mary Pickford and Ginger Rogers.

Villa Carlotta, an apartment building on the corner of Tamarind Avenue, was originally the Château's staff quarters. The buildings were connected by a tunnel. The strip of stores and cafés that line the opposite side of Franklin is in the spot where the stables used to be.

The Château Elysée building now is the Celebrity Centre International, the headquarters for the Church of Scientology, which saved it from demolition in 1972 and undertook the lengthy and expensive restoration.

East Hollywood

For the purposes of this book, when we talk about East Hollywood we are talking about the area east of Gower Gulch.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Gower Gulch was so named when many "oaters" were filmed in and around Gower Street. "Oaters" were Western movies, first called that by *Variety*, the Hollywood daily trade paper.

The big Disney Studios were later built in Burbank, where you will still find them.

In 1923, the 21-year-old Walt Disney rented a vacant lot at the corner of **Hollywood Boulevard** and **Vermont Avenue** and started his career, filming a combined live action-animated series of 13 short films about a four-year-old girl named *Alice*, who was played by Virginia Davis. That mouse named Mickey didn't arrive until five years later.

When Davis was commemorated for her pioneering work as an actress in 1998, at the age of 79, she mentioned that Disney was "long on creativity but low on cash," even to the point of borrowing her mother's car whenever he dated his future wife.

Go south of Sunset a few blocks on Vermont; there, between Santa Monica Boulevard and Melrose Avenue, is **Los Angeles City College**, which has one of the nation's most respected training programs in its Theatre Academy. Alumni include Alan Arkin, James Coburn, Al Freeman

Jr., Mark Hamill, Hugh O'Brian, director José Quintero, Donna Reed, Alexis Smith, Louise Sorel, Robert Vaughn, Cindy Williams and Paul Winfield.

After Mel Torme left Hollywood High he came here and sang with the Mel-Tones, a successful professional group he organized made up of students. Billy Barty, the less-than-three-feet-tall actor, attended during World War II when most men were away in the service so the football team had to take whoever it could get. Barty complained that, for the rest of his life, no one believed him when he told them he played college football.

LACC's Theatre Academy stages plays that are open to the public at its campus theater. The quality of acting and directing is consistently high while box office prices are absurdly low. ☎ 323-953-4000, extension 2990, for announcements of current productions (see page 184).

Recreation

Bowling

Hollywood is not much of a place for sports, organized or otherwise, except of course for the indoor kind. Long ago, in the '30s and '40s, when the American Legion Fight Arena was still open on Gower between Sunset and Hollywood, it was different – that is where you *really* saw stars every Friday night. There is one notable exception.

★★ **HOLLYWOOD STAR LANES**
7750 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 323-671-1100

It's a typical bowling alley, and we can't guarantee lots of celebrities work on their short steps here, but we happen to know Kirsten Dunst (*Get Over It!*) comes in with her girlfriends some Saturday nights. And what else are all the stars who live in Hollywood going to do with themselves? Open seven days, 24 hours – if you can't sleep at 4am, hey! Why not get some exercise?

Runyon Canyon Park

This park is west of Lake Hollywood on the other side of the Hollywood Freeway from the lake. Just a few minutes above Franklin Avenue, the park still has birds, rabbits, coyotes and other wildlife, as it did a century-and-a-half ago. To reach the park, take Franklin west from Highland, past La Brea Avenue to Fuller Avenue; go right on Fuller to the entrance gate. The park is open from dawn to dusk.

From 1862 to 1863 the US Army Camel Corps carried freight from Wilmington to Fort Tejon, by way of Los Angeles.

The wooded canyon has a history. Originally part of a land grant, it was given to "Greek George" Caralambo for his service as leader of the Army Camel Corps. **Carmen Runyan** (also spelled Runyon) bought it in 1919.

Soon after you walk through the gates, you will see the ruins of San Patrizio, the mansion built by actor/singer John McCormick (*Song of My Heart*). John Barrymore, Wallace Beery and Basil Rathbone were frequent guests.

Go left to join the road (you must walk, no cars are permitted) rising uphill along the west side of the canyon. Near the head of the canyon the trail meets a dirt road going back down the east side. Return down the steepish dirt road to Inspiration Point and the ruins of a pool house built by Frank Lloyd Wright for Huntington Hartford. Errol Flynn lived here in 1957-58. The site has nice views over Hollywood. Walk back to the dirt road and complete the loop to the beginning. Total distance is less than three miles, with a rise of more than 500 feet.

Griffith Park

A rock's a rock, a tree's a tree, shoot it in Griffith Park!
– Old studio saying

This is one of Los Angeles' treasures, an undeveloped park in the heart of the city, twice the size of New York's Central Park and San Francisco's Golden Gate Park combined. You can walk wooded trails, ride horseback, go to the Los Angeles Zoo, play golf, have a picnic or watch a movie being shot, all virtually in the lap of Hollywood.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The Hollywood Sign is in Griffith Park, high in the hills of the westernmost projection of the park.

The site was originally part of the land grant Rancho Los Feliz. The redundantly named **Colonel Griffith J. Griffith**, a gold speculator and curious character (he spent a year in prison for attempting to murder his wife), magnanimously gave 3,000 acres to the city for a park, along with $100,000 to build an observatory in it. His generosity may have been inspired by the belief that there was a curse on the land, which had taken its toll on several previous owners, so he couldn't sell it. The city, originally suspicious, finally accepted his offer and later added another 1,200 acres.

Griffith Park is five square miles in area, much of it mountainous.

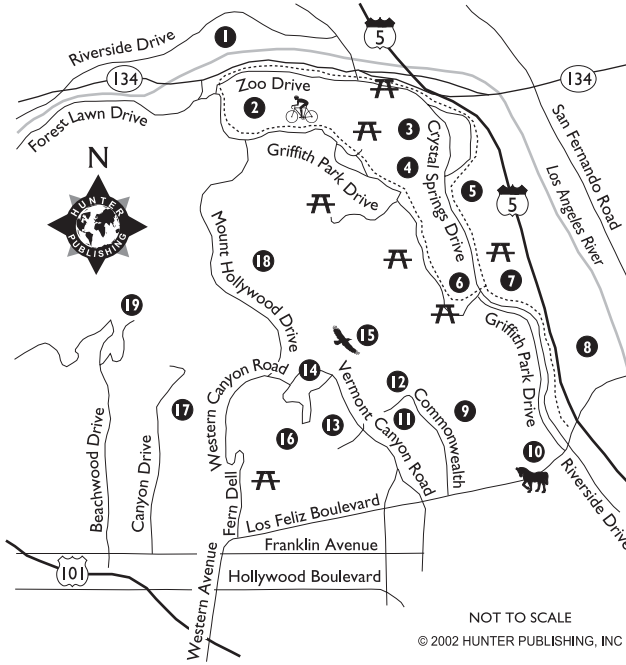
It has certainly been a boon for movie-makers. Since the earliest days of silent movies, picture companies have trekked the few miles to Griffith Park to take advantage of its varying locales. The switchblade fight scene between James Dean and another teenager in *Rebel Without a Cause* was filmed near the Observatory, as was the scene in *Terminator* where Arnold Schwarzenegger steals clothes from a trio of bad guys.

We always thought Bronson Caves was the most-used area in the park, seen in countless old serials and movies, such as *King Kong*, as well as doubling for the Batcave in the 1960s series and the newer film versions of *Batman*, a villain's hideout in *The X-Files* and home base for the *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*. But we learned that Cedar Grove, off Commonwealth Canyon Drive, is the most popular filmmaking locale. It is hard to believe, but the park is so popular that, in the year 2000, 2,148 film, TV and still productions used it as a locale.

If you saw the controversial Dixie Chicks video, it is in Griffith Park where the body of the abusive husband is dumped.

With elevations from 384 to 1,625 feet, much of the park is mountains and canyons. There are plenty of deer and coyotes here, and not always in remote areas. There's an occasional rattlesnake in the scrub for hikers to avoid, and poison oak in some areas. You'll see lots of opossums, skunks, raccoons and red foxes, but no mountain lions. In

Griffith Park



1. Los Angeles Equestrian Center
2. Travel Town Transportation Museum
3. Los Angeles Zoo
4. Wilson/Harding Golf Course; golf clubhouse
5. Autry Museum of Western Heritage
6. Merry-go-round; tennis courts
7. Ranger station; Metro Bus #96
8. Los Feliz Municipal Golf Course
9. Park Nursery; Cedar Grove
10. Park Entrance; GP&S Railroad; tennis courts; pony rides; Metro buses #180, 181
11. Roosevelt Municipal Golf Course
12. Tennis courts
13. Greek Theatre
14. Tunnel
15. The Bird Sanctuary
16. Griffith Observatory
17. Bronson Caves
18. Mount Hollywood; Dante's View
19. Hollywood Sign

Bicycle route

Picnic areas

the sky above you will see red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures and blue jays.

While three sides of the park are defined by major roads and freeways, the west side simply blends into the Hollywood Hills and Beachwood Canyon. One thin section goes all the way to Lake Hollywood (see page 158).

Getting to the Park

Griffith Park borders the towns of Burbank, Glendale and Hollywood.

For those traveling by car, Griffith Park's southern boundary is Los Feliz Boulevard, with five streets leading in. On the east are Riverside Drive and the Golden State Freeway (I-5), with three off-ramps: Los Feliz, Zoo Drive and Griffith Park Drive. Forest Lawn Drive and the Ventura Freeway (134), are on the north.

You can also reach Griffith Park by bus. From Downtown Los Angeles, METRO Bus 96 runs north on Olive; it takes 30 minutes to get to the Ranger Station, the merry-go-round, and picnic areas. From Hollywood, METRO buses 180 and 181 run east on Hollywood Boulevard to Riverside Drive and Los Feliz at the entrance to the park.

Park Regulations & Information

While the park is so large you could fit the entire city of Beverly Hills within its boundaries, the crime rate is extremely low. But there are penalties for minor transgressions. Bicycling on hiking trails will get you a $135 ticket. Dogs off leash, up to $81 (there are off-leash areas at Runyon Canyon and adjacent to the John Ferraro soccer fields); littering, $105; speeding over 25 mph anywhere in the park, $76. The most serious infraction is smoking in a fire district, which can cost you up to $675.

The park is open daily, 6am-10pm. Bridle trails, mountain roads and hiking paths close at sunset. Contact the **Park Ranger Station**, ☎ 323-913-4688, www.cityofla.org/RAP/grifmet/griffith.htm, for general information.

GRIFFITH PARK'S FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

The mile-long Festival of Lights, on a one-way section of Crystal Springs Drive off Los Feliz, starts around November 25 and runs through December 26; lights are on daily from 5-10pm. It is a very popular attraction, and the closer it gets to Christmas, the slower the traffic moves; on weekends this can lead to long waits.

Autry Museum of Western Heritage

You might expect a simple tribute to the movies' favorite singing cowboy, but this is much more. There are memorabilia from movie cowboys Gene Autry, John Wayne and Roy Rogers along with artifacts from the lives of historical figures such as Annie Oakley, Buffalo Bill and Teddy Roosevelt. Permanent galleries and changing exhibitions explore both the mythological and the authentic Old West. There have been excellent exhibits on the role of black soldiers in the US Cavalry and the lives of Japanese women in the West. It is certainly worth a few hours. The museum is open Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-5pm; Thursday, 10am-8pm. Admission is $7.50 for adults; $5 for seniors 60+ and students 13-18; $3 for children ages two-12. 4700 Western Heritage Way, off Griffith Park Drive, which is off Los Feliz Boulevard; or use the Golden State Freeway (5). ☎ 323-667-2000, www.autry-museum.org.

★ TIP

The Autry Museum has hands-on exhibits where visitors can learn history through games and exploration.

Griffith Observatory

With its astronomy museum, telescopes and planetarium theater, this has been by far the most popular place in the

park. Unfortunately, the Observatory closed for a three-year renovation in January 2002. The bust of James Dean, commemorating his role in *Rebel Without a Cause*, will be retained, and there will be a new Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theatre, partially funded by "Mr. Spock" of *Star Trek*. 2800 East Observatory Road, ☎ 323-664-1191, www.griffithobs.org.

Greek Theatre

An open-air, 4,700-seat natural amphitheater. Performances range from ballet to rock to musicals. Season runs May through October. 2700 North Vermont Avenue, ☎ 323-665-5857, www.greektheatrela.com.

Like the Hollywood Bowl, the Greek Theatre is an outdoor amphitheater with wonderful acoustics.

Bicycle Paths

Bikes are available for rent near the **Ranger Station**, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, Friday-Sunday in summer, weekends only in winter; ☎ 323-662-6573. You can also rent from **Woody's Bicycle World**, 3157 Los Feliz Boulevard, ☎ 323-661-6665. Woody's is a few blocks from the park, handy to both Crystal Spings Road in the park and the Los Angeles River bike path.

An easy ride follows **Crystal Springs Drive** (begin at the park entrance at Los Feliz, if you get bikes at Woody's). It's eight miles for the entire round-trip, with light grades. You will pass the mini-railroad on your right, and later the Visitor's Center/Ranger Station. Where Griffith Park Drive splits off to the left, continue on Crystal Springs past the picnic grounds and between the golf courses. At the zoo go straight on Zoo Drive (a bike path also loops around the parking lot) and continue to Travel Town, with big locomotives and small live steam trains. Return to the starting point by the same route.

A moderate ride follows the same path as above to **Griffith Park Drive** (one mile from start). There is a short, steep upgrade, then you go left around the merry-go-round and past Cedar Tree Picnic Grounds. At the junction beyond the picnic area, bear left and continue by the golf course. Past the driving range the road goes uphill to

the Mineral Wells Picnic Area (2.7 miles); for about a half-mile there is an uphill grind, then the road goes downhill past Mt. Hollywood Drive to Travel Town (4.2 miles). Follow Zoo Drive and Crystal Springs Drive back to the starting point.

Bird Sanctuary

Located in a wooded canyon with a stream, this sanctuary is home to many species of indigenous birds. Open daily, 10am-5pm. The Bird Sanctuary is off Vermont Canyon Road.

Bronson Caves

Several TV series, including *The Lone Ranger*, *Gunsmoke*, *Bonanza*, and *Have Gun, Will Travel*, have been shot here, along with innumerable Westerns, Easterns, Southerns and everything else. You don't use the regular park entrances to get here. Drive up Canyon Drive (four blocks east of Beachwood Drive) to the park entrance (the Azalea Garden is to the left). There is a white gate to the right of the last parking lot; walk up about a quarter-mile on the trail. The caves are shown as "Rock Quarry" on some maps.

SAFETY TIP

Griffith Park is exceptionally well patrolled and as safe as any park; it has a much lower crime rate than many. However, while it is perfectly all right to drive to the Greek Theatre after dark, exploring the park on foot at night is not advisable.

Fern Dell

This is a popular place for mothers to bring children, and for couples with romance in mind. Ferns and tropical

plants grow, a brook babbles, there's cool shade on a hot day, a place to picnic. It's by the **Western Avenue** entrance to the park.

Golf & Tennis

Wilson/Harding Golf Course, 18-hole, par 72. Clubhouse, locker room, rental clubs, hand and electric carts, pro shop, driving range; the restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. ☎ 323-663-2555.

Los Feliz Municipal Golf Course, Nine holes; par 27. Club rental, coffee shop. ☎ 323-663-7758.

Roosevelt Municipal Golf Course, Nine holes; par 33. ☎ 323-665-2011.

There is a snack stand by Griffith-Riverside Tennis Courts.

Griffith Park Drive tennis courts are free; after one set, make way for the next players. Located at Park Center, by the merry-go-round.

Griffith-Riverside, across Los Feliz Boulevard from Los Feliz-Riverside park entrance. Open during daylight hours; ☎ 323-913-4688 for hourly fees and reservations.

Griffith-Vermont courts are free before 5 and after 7pm; from 5 to 7pm the fee is $6 per hour. Make reservations the same day. Drive up Vermont Avenue into park, turn right onto Los Feliz and left on Commonwealth Drive. The courts are across from the Greek Theatre; parking is free. ☎ 323-664-3521.

Horseback Riding

The park has three pony tracks for children, from infants to pre-teens (riders must weigh less than 100 pounds). The tracks are open Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-4:30pm; cost is $1.50. Find them at Crystal Springs Drive, off Los Feliz near Riverside Drive; ☎ 323-664-3266.

Horses and guided trail rides are available at several locations; a few are listed below.

Los Angeles Equestrian Center, livery and rental stables, riding academy, indoor and outdoor show rings. Trail rides are available daily, 8am-4pm. Children must be at least six years old and four feet tall; adult maximum

weight is 220 pounds. Rides are $20 per person for an hour, $30 for 1½ hours, $35 for two hours, $40 for the sunset ride; cash only. 480 Riverside Drive, Burbank, ☎ 818-840-8401.

Riders may walk, trot or canter horses; they must remain on marked trails, fire and patrol roads.

Bar S Stables, open Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm; Saturday and Sunday, 8am-4:30pm. A one-hour ride is $15 for adults, $12 for children under 13; a two-hour ride is $25 for adults, $20 for children; additional hours are $13. 1850 Riverside Drive, Glendale, ☎ 818-242-8443.

J.P. Stables, open daily, 7:30am-6pm; the cost is $15 for one hour, $10 for additional hours. 1914 Mariposa Street, Burbank, ☎ 818-843-9890.

Sunset Ranch Hollywood Stables, open daily, 9am-5pm; cost is $15 for one hour, $10 for additional hours. A popular event is their 10-mile trail ride into the park on Friday evenings. Reservations are not accepted; it's on a first-come, first-served basis. The ride sets off between 5:30 and 6pm; you need to get there by 4:30 or so to get a horse. The group stops at a honky-tonk Mexican restaurant on the other side of the park for dinner; cost is $40, plus dinner. Sunset Ranch also offers a lunch ride Monday-Thursday at 10am, for $40. 3400 North Beachwood Drive, Hollywood, ☎ 323-464-9612, www.sunsetranchhollywood.com.

Hiking

From easy lower slopes and chaparral-covered foothills to densely forested valleys – any place you walk you can be totally away from civilization within minutes. There are 53 miles of hiking trails, and with the exclusive Los Feliz area backing up to the park you are likely to pass well-known actors on the trails. Open fires and smoking are not allowed. For more information about trails in Griffith Park, ☎ 323-913-4688.

Bronson Caves are an easy half-mile round-trip – a walk rather than a real hike. Drive up Canyon Drive or Bronson Avenue (both go north off Franklin Avenue and then join). Continue about a mile into hilly Griffith Park. Use the lot by the picnic area or at the road's end. On the east side of Canyon Drive look for a white gate and a park sign

marked "49"; take the fire road south to the caves where so many films have been shot.

Dante's View is a moderate hike, about four miles. Take Fern Dell Drive, just east of the end of Western Avenue, off Los Feliz. The main parking area is on the left about a half-mile into the park. Take the Mt. Hollywood Trail along Western Canyon for a half-mile, then upward and eastward to a view point. Cross the road leading to the closed Observatory, resume climbing on the trail. At a junction of trails bear right to Dante's View, 2.5 miles from the start. The area was cultivated over a period of years by a hiker who wanted to improve on nature.

Griffith Park has elevations up to 1,625 feet.

For the **Mt. Hollywood** trail, continue on from Dante's View by taking the Hogback Trail west a short distance to the continuation of the Mt. Hollywood Trail; go right and uphill to the highest point in the park. On your return keep on straight, crossing Hogback Trail, and you will come to Captain's Roost, a small picnic area with a water fountain. Continue on to the trail junction where you turned off to Dante's View on the way up, and go back down the original trail.

Sierra Club hikes take place year-round. The club meets in the upper parking lot by the merry-go-round on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7pm; they occasionally meet on other days, or for weekend or moonlight walks. Drawback: sometimes big crowds show up, as many as 100, a bit much for a decent hike. Free. ☎ 323-387-4287.

Los Angeles Zoo

The most popular attraction after the chimpanzees, which have finally gotten out of cages and into a more natural setting, is the **Komodo dragon** area, since Phil Bronstein, editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle* and Sharon Stone's husband, stuck his bare foot into one's mouth. The zoo is open daily, 10am-5pm, except for Christmas Day. Admission is $8.25 for ages 12 and up; $3.25 for ages two-12; $5.25 for seniors (65+). Rentals are available for strollers ($7), wheelchairs ($6), and electric wheelchairs ($25). Parking is free. The fare for the **Safari Shuttle Tram**, which runs around the perimeter of the zoo (with stops), is $3.75 for ages 12 and up; $1.75 for children under 12; and

$1 for seniors. 5333 Zoo Drive; ☎ 323-644-6400, www.la-zoo.org.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The Los Angeles Zoo was seen in the opening credits of the TV series *Three's Company* (1977-84).

Merry-Go-Round

A lovingly maintained 1926 wooden carousel with hand-carved horses goes 'round and 'round to the tunes of a brassy band organ. This is where the climactic scene of *Strangers on a Train* was filmed. Cost is $1 per ride, 11am-5pm; open daily in summer; Friday, Saturday and Sunday in winter. ☎ 323-665-3051. Crystal Springs Drive, in the northeast section of the park.

Miniature Train Rides

The **GP&S Railroad** (Griffith Park & Southern) is very near the park entrance off Los Feliz near Riverside Drive. Kids love this (as do some adults). Daily, 1pm to 5pm; adults, $2; children, $1.50; seniors, $1.25. Free parking. ☎ 323-664-6903.

Picnics

Picnicking is allowed practically everywhere in Griffith Park, but if you want a barbecue grill and tables try one of these designated spots.

Fast food stands are located in the park near the major attractions.

There are a few tables in the small area near the Bird Sanctuary off Vermont Canyon Road. At **Cedar Tree**, near the merry-go-round, there is a big, grassy area. **Crystal Springs**, near the Ranger Station, is the only place reservations are needed; it is a favorite area for large groups. **Fern Dell** is very accessible by car – Western Avenue crosses Los Feliz and becomes Fern Dell Drive; you can park along the street and walk over the stream to a

picnic table. **Mineral Wells**, off Griffith Park Drive near Harding Golf Course and driving range, is near the zoo and gets crowded on weekends. **Old Zoo Road** picnic area is secluded and peaceful; it's off Griffith Park Drive, with tables around obsolete animal cages from the old zoo. **Park Center**, near the Merry-Go-Round, has picnic tables, playground equipment and free tennis courts. **Pecan Grove** is past the zoo toward Travel Town.

Ice cream trucks and other food vendors roam through the picnic areas, mostly on weekends.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

During the 1970s, the Cedar Tree picnic area was the site of "Love- Ins," which were attended by thousands every Sunday.

Travel Town Transportation Museum

Travel Town is on the site of a regular campsite along the Anza Trail, founded in 1776.

This is a train museum with a large collection of steam locomotives, passenger cars, box cars, cabooses and retired streetcar trolleys. Inside the museum building is a very large, wonderfully detailed and working small-scale model train layout. Outside is a large-scale model train on a track for children and adults to ride on. The red barn, first seen as a set in Walt Disney's feature film *So Dear to My Heart*, was moved here from Disney's Holmby Hills home. Large-scale model railroading was his hobby – he had his own one-eighth-scale, steam-powered train in his backyard.

Open Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10am-5pm. General admission is free; the model train ride is $1.75. 5200 West Zoo Drive (off Forest Lawn Drive), ☎ 323-662-5874, www.cityofla.org/RAP/grifmet/tt.

MARATHON, ANYONE?

The **Jimmy Stewart Marathon** is run every April to benefit St. John's Child and Family Development Center. It is named for the late Hollywood star who was its original host. Celebrities and leading runners participate; Robert Wagner co-hosted with Olympic champion Jackie Joyner-Kersee in 2001. The team relay marathon usually has 35,000 runners in 20 divisions; each participant runs 5.2 miles before passing the baton. In addition to that event, there is a Celebrity Race, with usually a bunch of movie and TV stars participating. There are a variety of performers on stages, with a petting zoo and face-painting for kids. For more info, ☎ 310-829-8968, www.stjohns.org.

After Dark

What do you feel like doing tonight?
I don't know, Ange. What do you feel like doing?
– Ernest Borgnine, Joe Mantell, *Marty*

Hollywood bustles all day long, but when it gets dark it is like an iron curtain clangs down. We drove up Hollywood Boulevard one night, headed for a Dramatists Guild event at the Stella Adler Theatre. There was a crowd on the sidewalk in front of the Pantages Theatre, east of Vine, because *The Lion King* was playing. Up at the other end, past Highland, there were masses of fans behind police barricades on the sidewalks in front of the Chinese Theatre and the El Capitan across the street, all screaming at the stretch limos arriving for some Grammy event. The whole length in between was like some dour post-apocalypse movie. Solid iron gates were pulled down in front of most of the shops, others had accordion grates pulled across the front windows. An occasional lonely pedestrian walked by, about one to a block. Yet the traffic crawled, maddeningly slow. A bummer.

★ TIP

If you are going for a stroll anywhere in Hollywood, you will usually be happier if you do it in the daytime.

Bars

★★ **MICELI'S**
1646 North Las Palmas Avenue
☎ 323-466-3430

Old-fashioned Italian restaurant, celebrities still drop in. Jazz pianists, big bands occasionally, but fun when they are here. Phone. (See Miceli's restaurant, page 125.)

Cabaret

THE CINEGRILL
Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel
7000 Hollywood Boulevard
☎ 323-466-7000

Hands-down best cabaret in Los Angeles. Call to see what's on. Cover $10-$25, two-drink minimum, over 21.

Comedy

ACME COMEDY THEATRE
135 North La Brea Avenue
☎ 323-525-0202

Proscenium theater space, no booze, all ages, valet parking. There's a different show every night, and ticket prices vary; call ahead.

THE GROUNDLINGS THEATRE
7307 Melrose Avenue
☎ 323-934-9700
www.groundlings.com

Famous improv group. No booze, but not recommended for those under 17. Thursday-Sunday, times of shows vary; ticket prices are uually between $11.50-$18.

THE IMPROVISATION
8162 Melrose Avenue
☎ 323-651-2583
www.improv.com

This is where "The Improv" show that was formerly on TV originated. It's the place to see well-known comics, many who started here and became stars, as well as unknown talent. Open every night. Full bar, two-drink minimum, over 18, $10-$15.

FILM GLOSSARY

Three-Camera Comedy – A situation comedy performed in front of a live audience on a sound stage, with three cameras filming simultaneously. Madelyn Davis, who with Bob Carroll Jr. wrote all the *I Love Lucy* shows, tells us the technique was developed by Desi Arnaz so they could do the show on film out here and not have to move back to New York to do it live there.

POETRY, ANYONE?

Greenway Court Theatre, 544 North Fairfax Avenue, ☎ 323-655-7679, has Da' Poetry Lounge, Tuesdays, 9pm to midnight. Free.

Clubs

Oddly, until the last few years Hollywood has never been a prime venue for nightclubs. Even in its heyday the only one of note was the Montmartre Café on the second floor at 6753-63 Hollywood Boulevard (just east of Highland, north side; the Stella Adler Theatre is in there now), where Joan Crawford was discovered, and where Rudolph Valentino and Clara Bow used to shake it at tea dances in the '20s.

People often complain it is impossible to get into the really popular clubs, unless you are 1) a celebrity, 2) a handsome, sexy and hiply dressed Gen-X guy, or 3) a gorgeous young thing who wears a size 2. That is true, but there is one other way: have the concierge at your hotel make you a dinner reservation there. Never fails. If you don't have access to a concierge, phone and do it yourself several days ahead. It has to be a dinner reservation; a club reservation by itself won't work.

These days there is quite a bit of club action in these parts, but things change overnight, so call to be sure the joint is still in business.

DEEP
1707 Vine Street
☎ 323-462-1144
Rock/Pop

At the moment this is the hottest place in town, even though it is located improbably at Hollywood and Vine. Deep was inspired, so they say, by the risqué nightclubs of Amsterdam. You come here expecting excess and hedonism, hoping for titillation and voyeurism. Good luck.

There is no sign on the door but those in the know, such as Russell Crowe, Heidi Fleiss, Hugh Hefner (who brings a half-dozen bunnies along), Helen Hunt, Nicole Kidman and more make this scene (as they say). When President Bush's two daughters were in town, this is where they were brought by friends (with Secret Service tagging along).

The main room is for dinner. Comely dancers in stylishly shredded lingerie groove in glass boxes above and behind

the bar. The back room is the people dance room, a mirror-enclosed space with a glass cube above the ceiling where a *ménage à trois* of professional dancers move seductively. Admittance is by a strict guest list.

FILM GLOSSARY

Writers Guild of America (WGA) – The writers' union, which negotiates minimum payments for screenplays and teleplays with the studios, and has final say over screen credits. Also handles residuals for writers.

★★ **THE DERBY**
4500 Los Feliz Boulevard
☎ 323-663-8979
www.the-derby.com
Swing and rockabilly

Whoopi Goldberg held her birthday bash in the Derby.

There are those who claim that the whole national return to swing dancing started here, when this place was re-opened as The Derby in 1993. Before that it had been an offshoot Brown Derby, and was originally built in the 1920s by Cecil B. De Mille. Among early habitues of the '90s Derby were the writer and director of the low-budget 1996 movie, *Swingers,* who said this place was the genesis of the film. Now, TV shows host parties in the club and some who hone their skills here are regularly hired to appear in films, television shows and ads. You see all generations here, from Matt Dillon to Mitzi Gaynor.

CATALINA BAR & GRILL
1640 North Cahuenga Boulevard
☎ 323-466-2210
www.catalinajazzclub.com
Pure jazz

This is perhaps the city's premier jazz club. Major figures perform here and customers come to listen, not dance. Good sight lines, and service is discreet while performers are playing. Food is good, with an emphasis on pasta and seafood. Open Tuesday-Saturday, with shows at 8:30pm

and 10:30pm; and Sunday, 7pm and 9pm. Full bar. Cover $10-$20. All ages.

★★ FARFALLA'S BAR F2

143 North La Brea Avenue
☎ 323-938-2504
Jazz, blues, cabaret, hip-hop – pick a night

Farfalla means "butterfly" in Italian.

At street level is a very good Italian restaurant. Upstairs is Bar F2, a showcase for music, comedy and singers, depending on the night of the week. Saturday is usually funky jazz, Wednesday is comedy, Friday is sometimes a surf rock group, other times a blues singer. Thursday is the biggest night, when the cabaret chanteuse Morganne appears; that is when celebrities like Jim Carrey and Mira Sorvino show up. On Tuesdays, the hip-hop club Heat takes over both upstairs and downstairs, with live entertainment and DJs spinning underground rap. This place has a history. It used to be the Swanee Inn, where the King Cole Trio played in its early days (they started out across the street at the smaller Pirates Den). All nights free, except Tuesday. Call for schedule.

HOLLYWOOD ATHLETIC CLUB

6525 Sunset Boulevard (entrance on Schrader)
☎ 323-462-6262 (recorded information)

When it is not being used at night as a film location or for premier or wrap parties (it was the site of the official Madonna World Tour party in September 2001 when she did Drowned World in Los Angeles), the Hollywood Athletic Club is used by outside promoters as a popular venue as a nightclub. Check the *Los Angeles Times Calendar* section or *LA Weekly* to see what is happening, or phone.

KNITTING FACTORY

7021 Hollywood Boulevard
☎ 323-463-0204
www.knittingfactory.com/kfla
Jazz and Rock

Different nights, different live groups. A big place with a Main Stage for well-known bands, the smaller AfterKnit Lounge for lesser-knowns. Cover at both is $20 for men, $7

for women, all ages. Bar and restaurant open daily, 11am-2am. Very popular.

★★ **SUNSET ROOM**
1430 Cahuenga Boulevard
☎ 323-463-0004
Rock

Sunset Room is very difficult to get in to, unless you use your concierge – then it is easy. And it's a place that is worth your while to come see and participate in the action. Good food, beautiful people and celebrities are common. Friday and Saturday nights are the biggies – the street is clogged with late-model BMWs and SUVs impatiently waiting for the valet parkers to take over. Then there is the line hoping to get past the velvet ropes and the intimidating guy with the clipboard at the door. Inside with the hip clientele are often hip celebs, the likes of Val Kilmer, et al. Book dinner through the concierge at your hotel, or phone at least several days in advance for dinner reservations.

*California license plate **A1ANA2** belonged to Lawrence Welk. (Get it? "A-one and a-two.")*

★ TIP

In the Sunset Room, expect to mingle with the same 20s- and 30-types who watch *Sex and the City*.

Flamenco

CAVA RESTAURANT
8384 West Third Street
☎ 323-658-8898

This is not strictly in Hollywood, as it is south of Melrose and Beverly, between Fairfax and La Cienega. There are shows on Wednesdays, at 8:30 and 10pm.

EL CID SHOW RESTAURANT
4212 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 323-668-0318
www.elcid-ca.com

This is in East Hollywood, east of Vermont and Virgil. One-hour shows Wednesdays, 8pm; Thursdays and Sundays, 8 and 10pm; Fridays and Saturdays, 8pm, 10pm and midnight.

For Teenagers

ONE SEVEN
Hollywood & Highland
6801 Hollywood Blvd.
☎ 323-461-1517

This fairly new spot is in the Hollywood & Highland complex, and caters to 15- to 20-year-olds on weekends. It has a big dance floor and a stage, but so far has featured mostly DJs. The look is sleek and posh with the usual bright lights, video spheres and projection screens, a light show and a deafening sound system – just what everyone wants. Girls (who woefully outnumber boys so far) dress in standard-issue capri pants and navel-baring tops and stay on the lookout for the talent scouts (someone is spreading tales of starlet discoveries). Open Friday, Saturday and before school holidays, 8pm-1:30am. The $20 cover charge is a little steep.

Theaters

JOHN ANSON FORD AMPHITHEATRE
2580 Cahuenga Boulevard
☎ 323-461-3673

A natural amphitheater on the east side of the Hollywood Freeway as it goes through Cahuenga Pass out of Hollywood. There is also a smaller theater, Inside the Ford. They present chamber music, ballet, jazz, and plays.

LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE THEATRE ACADEMY
855 North Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90026
☎ 323-953-4000

LACC has been Los Angeles' premier training institution for actors for 70 years. Performances are open to the public at low prices, with high theatrical quality. Phone or write for the season's program.

SILENT MOVIE THEATRE
611 North Fairfax Boulevard (south of Melrose Avenue)
☎ 323-655-2520
www.silentmovietheatre.com

The Silent Movie Theatre is the only fully operational cinema in the US that is still showing silent movies. If you can remember seeing John Gilbert in *The Big Parade* (*The New York Times*' Best Picture, 1925), or the wonderful Janet Gaynor in *Seventh Heaven* (Best Actress, first Academy Award, 1927), or Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, Louise Brooks, Charlie Chaplin or W.C. Fields, you should visit the theater out of nostalgia. Anyone younger than that should go just to see what all the shouting was about, and why many people were sorry when movies started talking out loud and a fantastic art form was left behind. Shows are Friday and Saturday at 8pm; Sunday at 1, 4 and 8pm.

Hollywood A to Z

Medical Services

Childrens' Hospital, 4650 Sunset Boulevard, ☎ 323-876-4000.

Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital, 1310 North Vermont Avenue, ☎ 323-764-9900.

Kaiser Permanente Hospital, 4871 Sunset Boulevard, ☎ 323-455-7778.

Outreach Services

Gay & Lesbian Services Center, 1245 North Highland Avenue, ☎ 323-698-2121.

Police & Fire

Hollywood Police, 1310 Cahuenga Avenue, ☎ 323-233-8888; emergency, 911.

Post Offices

Hollywood Main Station, 1615 Wilcox Avenue (at Fountain), ☎ 323-464-2355.

Los Feliz Station, 1825 N. Vermont Avenue, ☎ 800-275-8777.

Santa Monica Boulevard Branch, 6457 Santa Monica Boulevard, ☎ 800-275-8777.

Visitor Information

Hollywood Entertainment District, 6425 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 401, Hollywood 90028, ☎ 323-463-6767, www.hollywoodbid.org. Write for a map, information and coupons for restaurants and shops. See map, photos and information at their Web site.

Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, 7018 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood 90028, ☎ 323-469-8311, www.hollywoodcoc.com. Write, call or stop in for map and list of stars on the Walk of Fame.

West Hollywood

As long as they have sidewalks, you have a job.
– Joan Blondell to Claire Dodd, *Footlight Parade*

Overview

Once upon a time there were Hollywood and West Los Angeles, both part of the City of Los Angeles, and there was Beverly Hills. Squeezed in between those heavyweights was a slice of leftover land the cities hadn't claimed so it belonged to LA County. Because it was long and thin the whole piece was called the County Strip, and the section of the boulevard running along the northern edge is called the Sunset Strip.

At its eastern end, the city of West Hollywood is only two blocks wide, from Fountain Boulevard to Romaine Avenue. Santa Monica Boulevard, the city's "main street," runs between them from La Brea Avenue (West Hollywood's eastern border), to the center of town at La Cienega Boulevard. At that point Santa Monica Boulevard turns south, and the road that was Santa Monica becomes Holloway Drive for a few blocks before merging with Sunset Boulevard.

Marilyn Monroe and Shelley Winters shared an apartment at 8573 Holloway Drive in 1951.

Both Sunset and Santa Monica boulevards continue west to Doheny Drive, where they cross into Beverly Hills. West Hollywood widens as you go west, stretching southward from Sunset Boulevard in the foothills of the Hollywood Hills to Beverly Boulevard, which borders the City of Los Angeles in the flatlands.

We must mention hipness, which is in the psyche of the beholder. Hollywood has it in limited quantities these days, only in a few clubs competing in the "who's hippest?" race and some shops on Melrose. Beverly Hills is too self conscious to be hip, Malibu is too private to be anything and Culver City never had it. But West Hollywood exudes hip from La Brea to Doheny without even trying. That is precisely why it's hip.

FILM GLOSSARY

Director's Cut – the version of a motion picture edited to the director's liking. The production company always has the final word so this may not be the version put into release.

History

The 19th Century

As with everything around here, this land was originally home to the Gabrieleno Indians. Mexico gave it to Don Antonio José Rocha in 1828 as part of the Rancho La Brea land grant. By the late 1800s the land was subdivided and sold to newly arrived settlers. In 1898 Moses Sherman, who wanted his Pacific Railway Co. to reach out from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica and the ocean, built rail yards at what is now San Vicente Boulevard and Melrose Avenue. There's a great big glass building called The Blue Whale standing there now – you can't miss it.

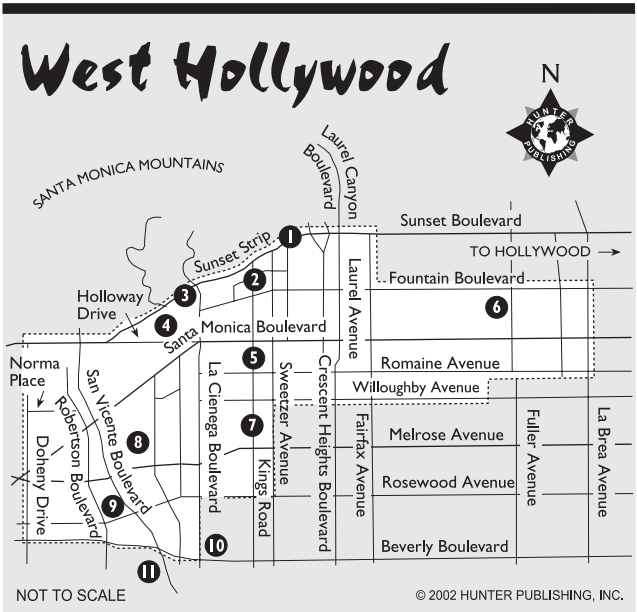
The 20th Century

Historic Route 66 runs through the middle of West Hollywood as Santa Monica Boulevard.

The rail yard was called Sherman's Station, and railroad workers' homes and stores sprang up around it. Pretty soon it was known as the town of Sherman. By the 1920s it had really begun to build up, especially with the advent of the movie studios, and it was known by then as West Hollywood. It remained unincorporated, and with little government oversight and the advent of prohibition it became a haven for speakeasies and assorted forms of decadence. Glamour was added in the '30s when supper clubs along Sunset Boulevard were the resorts of Hollywood's elite.

Bringing It Up to Date

The famed Sunset Strip clubs like Trocadero and the Mocambo faded, but in the 1970s a different type of club,



1. Château Marmont, Mondrian, Standard and Argyle Hotels
2. William S. Hart Park
3. Tiffany Theatre
4. Sunset Plaza; Sunset Strip
5. Kings Road Park
6. Plummer Park
7. Schindler Studio & Residence
8. Pacific Design Center; Avenues of Art & Design
9. West Hollywood Park
10. Coronet Theatre
11. Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; Beverly Center Mall

----- West Hollywood boundary

epitomized by Whisky A Go-Go and the Roxy, was created here. The interior design and decorating business found a home near Beverly and Robertson boulevards and soon the area became internationally known as a design center.

By the 1970s, West Hollywood had attracted large numbers of gays and lesbians, who historically have made their way to major urban areas to find safety in numbers; there was also a large senior citizen population. In the early 1980s the gays were fighting the homophobia of the Sheriff's Department, and the seniors felt vulnerable to the county's threat to end rent control. The two groups

joined hands and overwhelmingly voted to incorporate as West Hollywood in 1984.

The new city signed a contract with the LA County Sheriff's Department to continue providing law enforcement services, but now that they answer to West Hollywood's City Council, deputies' attitudes toward gays have changed considerably. In fact, many gays are now Sheriff's Deputies. And senior residents feel considerably safer; new laws make it very difficult to arbitrarily evict a senior from an apartment.

PET LOVERS, TAKE NOTE

You are not your pet's "owner" in West Hollywood, although that doesn't mean your pet necessarily owns you, either. The City Council voted last year to amend the municipal code to remove all references to "pet owner." From now on those persons will officially be called "pet guardians." Mayor Jeffrey Prang said the resolution is aimed at reminding those with pets that animals have rights, too. The kindhearted city previously affirmed the rights of renters to have pets, and created a "no-kill" animal shelter.

Getting Here

From LAX

By Car

From the airport, take the San Diego Freeway (405) north to the Sunset Boulevard off-ramp; then go right (east) to Hollywood (about seven miles).

By Bus

Take the free shuttle to Lot C, then transfer to Metro Bus #220, which takes you to Santa Monica and San Vicente

boulevards. Fare is $1.35. Phone ☎ 800-COMMUTE (266-6883).

Telephone area codes for West Hollywood are easy to remember: 323 east of La Cienega Boulevard, 310 west of La Cienega.

By Shuttle

The waiting area is on the island in front of each terminal. Fare for one passenger is $22; for two passengers, $31. Try **Prime Time Shuttle**, ☎ 800-262-7433, www.primetimeshuttle.com; or **Super Shuttle**, ☎ 323-775-6600 or 310-782-6600, www.supershuttle.com.

By Taxi

The fare from the airport to West Hollywood is $24, plus a $2.50 airport fee.

★ TIP

West Hollywood is within easy reach of both Los Angeles International and Burbank airports. LAX is served by international, national and commuter airlines and lies 15 miles southwest of town. Burbank is served by national and commuter lines and lies 10 miles to the north.

Getting Around

By Car

Driving around this area is easy, but parking is hard. West Hollywood was built up in the 1920s, and streets are narrow, especially those north of Santa Monica Boulevard that rise into the hills. There is not enough off-street parking space for current needs; most spaces are on-street and metered. Some neighborhoods, to ensure enough parking space for their own residents, have restricted parking zones at certain times. When parking on a residential

street, be sure to read the signs regarding times permitted.

By Bus & Shuttle

The legendary Sunset Strip is only 1.6 miles long, from Hollywood's Laurel Canyon Boulevard (Laurel Avenue in West Hollywood) to Doheny Drive.

West Hollywood's shopping areas of Santa Monica Boulevard, Sunset Boulevard and the design district are very walkable. And, to make things even easier, the CityLine shuttle bus loops around town on weekdays between 9am and 4pm, making frequent stops. There are four buses running continuously on two routes, starting at La Brea and Fountain on the east end of town, and cruising Santa Monica Boulevard and the side streets, ending at Beverly Center (the shopping mall) and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; the fare is 50¢. Get a map of CityLine bus routes by contacting the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, ☎ 323-650-2688, www.wehochamber.org, or write or drop in at their office, 8278½ Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90046.

By Taxi

Fares are $1.90 to start the meter, then 30¢ for each tenth of a mile.

Beverly Hills Cab . . . . . ☎ 310-273-6611
Checker Cab . . . . . ☎ 800-696-4919
Independent Taxi Co. . . . . ☎ 800-521-8294
United Independent Taxi . . . . . ☎ 800-411-0303

WARNING!

There are an estimated 2,000 "bandit cabs" on the west side of town. Some unscrupulous drivers buy an old taxicab, slap a fake city logo on the door and install a black-market meter set at any mileage rate they choose, and go into business. Be sure the cab you get into has an official seal; this assures it has passed strict inspections and gets regular safety checks, has doors that lock, air conditioning, proof of insurance and a meter that has been certified by the state. The driver must also understand English, which often comes in handy.

Who Lives Here?

West Hollywood is one mile from Hollywood and one mile from Beverly Hills.

Despite the fact that West Hollywood is full of people working at the studios, not many are celebrities. Loretta Young lived here, at 1308 North Flores Street near DeLongpre Avenue, early in her career (this section of Flores is four blocks east of La Cienega, north of Fountain Avenue; it doesn't go through to Sunset). Marilyn Monroe, early in her career, lived just two blocks east at 1301 Harper.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lots of DINKs live here in West Hollywood: that's Dual Income, No Kids.

Liberace lived in the hills at 8433 Harold Way (a twisting street that runs between Kings and Queens roads a couple of blocks uphill from Sunset) during the 1960s and '70s. He wanted to make a museum out of the big mansion, but the neighbors understandably complained. Dorothy Parker lived at the stucco bungalow at 8983 Norma Place (east of Doheny between Sunset and Santa Monica) in the

The boutiques and restaurants on the north side of Sunset Boulevard are in West Hollywood, but the houses in the hills directly above them are in Hollywood.

1960s while she was writing screenplays. The short little street was named after actress Norma Talmadge. For those either very young or exceedingly forgetful, Dorothy Parker wrote the screenplays for *A Star Is Born* (both the 1937 and 1954 versions) and for Hitchcock's *Saboteur*, and the still-haunting 1930s short story *Big Blond*.

Quite a few celebrities have homes just above Sunset Boulevard in the hills – but that is in Hollywood. There are few residing within West Hollywood.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Sammy Glick, anti-hero of Budd Shulberg's classic Hollywood novel *What Makes Sammy Run?*, supposedly lived at 1416 Havenhurst Drive, near Sunset. Real-life stars who did live there include Carole Lombard, Dick Powell, and, more recently, Julia Roberts.

On Location

Quite a few films are shot here; West Hollywood even has its own Film Office where the studios go to get permission to clutter up the streets. A scene from *Annie Hall* was shot at 8301 Sunset Boulevard in an organic foods restaurant (then it was called the Source; now it is Cajun Bistro). Other films (and some of their West Hollywood locations) include *The Big Lebowski*, *Bowfinger*, *Circuit*, *Color of Night*, *Dr. Doolittle 2*, *L.A. Confidential* (the Formosa Café), *The Majestic*, *Night at the Roxbury* (Crunch Gym), *Timecode* (Book Soup), and *Living Dangerously*.

Best Places to Stay

The accommodations price scale can be found on page 39.

Several good, large hotels on Sunset Boulevard are favored by celebrities. Rock stars tend to flock together. A couple of places have legendary histories, and are still going strong. Below Sunset are several smaller, boutique ho-

tels that have their own fans. In all, West Hollywood is a good place for hotels, with a nice range of choices.

Hotels

★★ **THE ARGYLE**
8358 Sunset Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069
☎ 323-654-7100, 800-225-2637, fax 323-654-9287
www.argylehotel.com
Expensive-Deluxe

The Argyle is built on a hill; only 11 of its 15 stories can be seen from Sunset Boulevard.

This is real style, and has been since it opened in 1931 as The Sunset Tower, a luxury apartment building. At 15 stories it was always a spectacular sight with its elegant silver and gray façade. Now there are higher buildings, but none nearly as striking as this one.

The Argyle, with its art deco elegance, represents all that Hollywood aspired to in the 1930s. Friezes above the front door and along the setbacks express a tangle of typical art deco designs mixed in with flora and fauna, mythological creatures, zeppelins and Adam and Eve. If you get down the hill to the underground garage, the sculpted panels over the entrance depict the radiator grille of a 1920s car.

The first literary mention of The Argyle was in Raymond Chandler's Farewell, My Lovely.

Those were the days when, at one time or another, Billie Burke, Clark Gable, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Paulette Goddard, Jean Harlow, Howard Hughes, Marilyn Monroe, Zazu Pitts, the mobster Bugsy Siegel (who was evicted for taking bets), Frank Sinatra, John Wayne and James Dean had apartments here.

If the building looks familiar that might be because you have seen it onscreen; the hotel has appeared in *Indecent Proposal*; *Murder, My Sweet*; *Wayne's World Part II*; *Pretty Woman* and *Strange Days*. One of the apartments was John Travolta's in *Get Shorty*; and a terrible story for a picture was pitched to Tim Robbins poolside in *The Player.*

The suites have art deco furnishings and floor-to-ceiling windows; some have steam showers, Jacuzzi tubs and terraces. Everything comes with plush robes and oversized marble baths; amenities include 24-hour room service and a 24-hour concierge. There is a health center, heated pool and the **fenix restaurant**. Both the hotel and the restau-

rant are still magnets for celebrities. You will know why when you see them.

★★ CHATEAU MARMONT

8221 Sunset Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90046
☎ 323-656-1010, 800-242-8328, fax 323-655-5311
Expensive-Deluxe

Talk about the spirit of Hollywood; Château Marmont *is* Hollywood. One curious touch here is that you will find a script on the dressing table in your room; there's a different one in every room. A writer who was staying there a few years ago noted that the script in his room was *Reality Bites*, starring Ethan Hawke; the next time he came in he shared the elevator with his next-door neighbor, who happened to be Ethan Hawke.

George Plimpton reported that he encountered Boris Karloff roaming the halls late at night when he stayed at Château Marmont.

The seven-story hotel on the hillside just above Sunset was built as an apartment house in 1929, modeled after the royal Château Amboise on the Loire River. But the timing was bad. When the Depression almost immediately depressed everything, it was sold and turned into a hotel. That is why all of the hotels' 50 rooms and suites, except the smaller, basic rooms, have full-size kitchens and dining rooms. Celebrities have enjoyed staying here from its very early days. And while the Garden of Allah (right across the street), Schwab's Drugstore (catty-corner) and Mocambo and the Trocadero (up Sunset a few blocks) are all gone, Château Marmont is going along better than ever.

Its past guests are a roster of Hollywood's stars – Orson Welles, Marilyn Monroe, Harry Belafonte, Robert Mitchum. A young, unknown Warren Beatty took the cheapest room and was locked out for not paying. Judy Garland spent an afternoon playing the piano in the lobby. Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward first met here. Greta Garbo, thinking no one recognized her, signed the register as Harriet Brown. Robert de Niro lived in the penthouse for two years, Boris Karloff lived here for five years, and Keanu Reeves doesn't even own a house in Los Angeles, he just stays at the Marmont. Billy Wilder conceived *Sunset Boulevard* here and *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* was written here.

The stories go on. James Dean climbed in the window of Bungalow 2 when Natalie Wood was waiting there for the first reading of *Rebel Without A Cause*. After Hedy Lamarr, nee Hedwug Keisler, was given her new name by Louis B. Mayer she checked into Château Marmont but signed the register Hedy Lamar – she didn't yet know how to spell it. In the loud 1980s, Jim Morrison of the Doors, high as a kite, jumped off the roof of a poolside cabana to see if he could really fly. He couldn't. Members of Led Zeppelin raced their Harley-Davidsons through the halls, the Eagles immortalized the hotel in *Hotel California*, Alice Cooper joined a pick-up football game – naked. And John Belushi died of a drug overdose in Bungalow 3.

A warning about rampant celebrities, though. Although the model-infested bar, which is actually next door, was for years a hangout mainly for music industry people (a lot of civilians come there now), the hotel itself is very private. The restaurant is small, and many guests eat in their rooms, taking advantage of those kitchens and the hotel's 24-hour room service. While casting directors often hold casting sessions here, with bit players hanging around the lobby awaiting their turn, the elevator goes directly from the garage to the upper floors, so many of those who stay here don't even go through the lobby.

After millions of dollars of refurbishing, the Marmont has changed enough to be considered up to date, but not enough to lose the romance it has always had. Each room and suite is unique. There is a pool, used only by guests and their guests; above the pool are bungalows on a hillside that is a tangle of fragrant eucalyptus, honeysuckle, midnight jasmine and rose bushes. Some rooms open onto a private colonnaded courtyard where guests may have breakfast and lunch; some look out on the gardens; others have wonderful panoramic views of the Strip and all of West L.A. Hotel amenities include 24-hour shoeshine service, and rental car delivery to the airport.

HYATT WEST HOLLYWOOD
8401 Sunset Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069
☎ 323-656-1234, 800-233-1234, fax 323-650-7024
www.hyatt.com
Moderate-Expensive

The Hyatt West Hollywood attracts a young clientele and tends to fill up during spring break and summer. Book early.

Rock 'n roll fans love this place because of its history. While the Sunset Strip was the center for luxurious nightclubs in the 1930s and '40s, those were replaced by the 1960s with clubs drawing a younger crowd. That is when Gene Autry opened Hotel Continental, which soon attracted the rock bands that were in town playing the clubs; Hyatt Hotels took it over a few years later. Guests included Led Zeppelin, The Doors, the Rolling Stones and Alice Cooper. Mostly, they were not quiet, retiring types, and the hotel was soon nicknamed The Riot House instead of Hyatt House. In the 1980s the hotel was a favorite of bands such as Guns N' Roses and Poison. The hotel appeared in the rock parody *Spinal Tap*, and still gets many of the bands playing the Strip as guests.

There is a rooftop pool, a fitness center, concierge service, currency exchange and postage stamps. Their restaurant, **Tramonto on the Strip**, serves continental food, and the Tramonto bar is a handy place for cocktails. South rooms overlooking Sunset Boulevard have a view over West Hollywood and beyond; rooms on the north side look up at the Hollywood Hills. Overnight self-parking is $15.

★★ **LE MONTROSE SUITE HOTEL**
900 Hammond Street
West Hollywood, CA 90069
☎ 310-855-1115, 800-637-7200, fax 310-657-9192
Expensive-Deluxe

See West Hollywood without polluting the atmosphere: borrow complimentary bicycles at Le Montrose.

Though there are 132 suites, this gem of a place in a quiet residential area two blocks downhill from Sunset and just east of Doheny seems smaller. The hotel, protecting privacy, is loath to name names, but we know it gets its share of celebrities; it is popular with those in the music business, and someone saw Ann-Margret there recently.

Each suite has a sunken living room with a fireplace; most suites have a kitchenette and all have a refrigerator. You can dine in your suite, or on the rooftop terrace where we attended a party and can attest to the great city views, or in the small **Library Restaurant**, open only to hotel guests and their friends. And there are suites designed for the handicapped.

Just a few of the extras that make Le Montrose appealing: 24-hour room service, roof-top heated salt-water pool and spa, lighted tennis court, private trainer and tennis pro, health club with sauna, in-suite massage therapy, on-site car rental, 24-hour concierge, multilingual staff, and currency exchange.

★★ MONDRIAN

8440 Sunset Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069
☎ 323-650-8999, 800-525-8029, fax 323-650-5215
www.ianschragerhotels.com
Expensive-Deluxe

The two 40-foot high mahogany doors outside the Mondrian's front entrance are there strictly to impress you.

The Mondrian was built in 1958 as an apartment building on Sunset; it is part-way up into the foothills, so the south-facing rooms had a view. Now it is a hotel, but it still has the view. It was named after the early 20th-century Dutch painter and the exterior was originally painted like one of his artworks. The hotel was bought several years ago and refurbished by its new owners. Now it is stark white and people wonder why it is named the Mondrian.

The rooms (everything, including the lobby, is white-on-white) are good-sized and have kitchens, a legacy from the days when these were apartments. There is an extensive room service menu, with a large international selection for breakfast. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are also served in **Asia de Cuba Restaurant** (see page 202). **Seabar**, the lobby sushi bar, has a 42-foot-long alabaster table lit from below and is mostly a late night spot, as is the popular **Sky Bar**, which is not up on the roof, as you expect from the name, but off the lobby. The hotel, restaurant and bar are all places you might see celebrities; some, Kevin Costner and Robert Downey Jr., for instance, have stayed here. There is a gymnasium, personal trainers, steam room; massages and aerobics classes are available, as is a 24-

hour concierge, handy for tickets and reservations for anywhere. The Mondrian delivers fruit and cookie platters to each room every afternoon.

★★ THE STANDARD

8300 Sunset Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069
☎ 323-650-9090, fax 323-650-2820
www.standardhotel.com
Inexpensive-Moderate

You'll need plenty of quarters for the coin-operated telescopes on The Standard's pool deck so you can check out the views of Beverly Hills and West LA.

Where the Château Marmont definitely has more geriatric Hollywood in mind, The Standard (note that the name of the hotel is always shown upside-down, beginning with their sign) is positively made for Gen-X- and Gen-Y-ers. It is hard to believe this hotel was built in 1962 as the Thunderbird Motel and then became a retirement home. Now the coffee shop is open 24 hours and the maids don't vacuum the halls until noon – they might wake some of the guests if they made noise earlier than that. That is why check-in time isn't until 4pm.

As soon as we walked in we knew this place was anything but standard. The lobby has a conversation pit (much used for cocktails), with shag carpet that goes up the wall to cover the ceiling; a disc jockey's booth built into the registration desk; and a big vitrine behind the desk where you will usually see a performance artist (perhaps a nude woman asleep).

The Standard's coffee shop is usually crowded between 2 and 3am, after the other places on the Strip have closed.

The lobby also has video art projected onto a wall, a screening room, a barber/tattoo shop where Matt Dillon, Jennifer Lopez, Paula Abdul, Gloria Estefan, Rose McGowan and Roberto Benigni have dropped in to sample the $19 cuts ($14 for a buzz) and peruse the tiny, eccentric gift shop (we found bi-coastal clocks labeled "Here" and "There").

Ever since it opened, The Standard has been a place to be seen for those in one of Hollywood's three big industries – television, music and film.

The food in the coffee shop, which has no name, has been described as American coffee shop casual, but it is more than that. Where else can you get spicy crab noodles with grapefruit and avocado or a steak with red wine mushroom sauce at 4am? Not many places, even in Los Angeles.

And the sophisticated little wine list is surely un-coffee shop-like. The décor is sort of '60s-chic and there is a full bar, at which the 40 oz. Colt 45 is served in a brown paper bag. This is one of their little jokes – like the air conditioning settings in the rooms, labeled Blow, Hard, Harder and Stop. There's no art on the walls in the rooms, but the décor makes up for that – you'll see Andy Warhol-print curtains and silver beanbag chairs. Some rooms have inflatable sofas (maids carry air pumps on their carts), surfboard tables and ultrasuede floor pillows. The minibars are stocked with Gummi Bears, licorice, Vaseline and condoms wrapped like gold coins.

There are five room categories at The Standard: Budget Sunset, Sunset, Medium, Large and X-Large.

Andre Balazs, who also owns the Château Marmont a block east, created The Standard with the young, hipper-than-thou in mind. The interiors were done by film set designer Shawn Hausman (*The People vs. Larry Flynt),* which is possibly why it all has the feeling it would have been perfectly at home in an *Austin Powers* film. Leonardo DiCaprio, Cameron Diaz and the Smashing Pumpkins' D'arcy Wretzky and James Iha are investors; DiCaprio is sometimes glimpsed out by the pool, sipping a drink and taking in the view.

The corner rooms with a southeast exposure are best; they face the pool and also have their own view of the city. Your fellow guests are likely to be actors who tend to spend more on their wardrobes than on their hotel rooms. But it is definitely a fun place.

★★ WYNDHAM BEL AGE HOTEL

1020 North San Vicente Boulevard (just off Sunset)
West Hollywood, CA 90069
☎ 310-854-1111, fax 310-854-0926
www.wyndham.com
Expensive-Deluxe

This hotel is located on the south side of the Strip at its highest point, with great views from private balconies out over the basin (ask for room on the south side of the building). This is a class act: all suites, many with the bedrooms up a half-level so you can see the views from bed, a world-class art collection on every wall. The hotel has two restaurants; **Diaghilev** is one of the most elegant in town (see page 203); the less formal **Club Brasserie** is lined

with big windows for the view (it is also a top jazz club at night; see page 228).

For workouts, the Bel Age has a rooftop pool and fitness center.

The Bel Age is a popular place for celebrities who don't have a home in Los Angeles; we know of a star who is staying here for a week as we write this. The hotel is packed when the Los Angeles Film Critics Awards are held here each year, and it always fills up at Emmy and Oscar award times. Quite a few films and TV shows are shot here. The hotel doesn't give out names, but we know that the Bel Age was home to the character Dylan McKay on *Beverly Hills, 90210*, and countless scenes were shot here as guests watched. *Ally McBeal* filmed a few segments here. And the movie *Showtime*, released in 2002 with Robert Di Niro and Eddie Murphy, lit up the West Hollywood skyline for three nights when they shot on the rooftop.

FILM GLOSSARY

Rifle Mike – a microphone that is aimed at an actor's mouth from a distance (also called a shotgun mike).

Best Places to Eat

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

There are probably more good places to eat in West Hollywood than in downtown Los Angeles, Beverly Hills or Hollywood itself, though it is much smaller in size. Parking is the problem, which is why every place, even nondescript, casual Barney's Beanery, has valet parking.

Fine Dining

★★ ASIA DE CUBA AT MONDRIAN
Mondrian Hotel
8440 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 323-848-6000
Nouveau Asian-Latino
Very Expensive

The food is modeled on the cuisine that supposed developed in Cuba after many Chinese settled there in the early

1900s. It is not Chinese and not Cuban, but a very nouveau and tasty combination of both. The portions here are huge! The items listed as "shooters" on the menu, probably so-called because they are served in small glasses, are really appetizers. The "appetizers" are meals. The "entrées" are feasts. Recently the two of us ordered one appetizer and one entrée and staggered home under a load of leftover goodies. Whether your party is two, three or four, we suggest you start with a couple of shooters to go along with drinks, then order one appetizer for the table before going any further.

Asia de Cuba serves breakfast, lunch and dinner; eating out on the terrace by the hotel's pool is most popular in any kind of decent weather because of the view (the Mondrian is up on the hilly part of Sunset with nothing in the way to block the sight of West Hollywood and beyond). We also like the dining room, with its white on white décor and romantic candlelight at night. Because it is a narrow room there are only four tables by the windows; if you want one, reserve it early. Celebrities are here daily at breakfast, lunch or dinner. Reservations strongly suggested. The hotel is set close up to busy Sunset Boulevard; watch for the sudden, narrow, short driveway. And watch for the $15 valet parking fee. If you are staying anywhere in West Hollywood it would behoove you to taxi here.

★★ DIAGHILEV

Wyndham Bel Age Hotel
1020 North San Vicente Boulevard (just off Sunset)
☎ 310-854-1111
Franco-Russian
Very Expensive

To get the name out of the way, Sergei Diaghilev was the famous ballet impresario who brought Russian ballet to Paris, London and New York in the early 20th century. And celebrities dine here for the same reason ordinary mortals do: it is opulent and romantic. Start with ice-cold Russian vodka and caviar while you enjoy the balalaika or harp music. The mirrored room has gold-framed paintings from Diaghilev's era, and long-stemmed roses grace the tables.

The California Restaurant Writers Association voted Diaghilev its supreme achievement, the 5-Star Award.

Don't miss the piroshki served with the borscht. The menu is wide ranging: sturgeon, duck and venison, each served with a caviar and lemon emulsion, truffles or port wine sauce. Dimitri, the manager, is the most gracious host you will ever encounter. Diaghilev offers a great dining experience with the possibility of seeing a star stuff herself on chicken Kiev (only here it is called *Poulet Kiev Façon Diaghilev*). Dinner only, Tuesday-Saturday, 6:30-10:30pm.

★★ DAN TANA'S

9071 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-275-9444
Italian
Moderate-Expensive

Show-biz types have been having dinner at this little yellow bungalow just south of the Sunset Strip ever since 1964. We have been going there ourselves most of that time. It is a really comfortable place with red leather booths and checkered tablecloths; Dan Tana wouldn't dare change it, this is exactly what his customers want. We go in, see the same waiters, the same bartender, year after year. Dan Tana was named "Restaurateur of the Year" by the California Restaurant Writers Association.

The 1980s TV show Vega$ named its lead character, Dan Tanna, after the restaurateur, with Robert Urich playing the lead role.

We keep going back because Mate Mustac, the chef, turns out what the French call *vielle cuisine*, food that is well cooked but with no pretentions. The mozzarella marinara has been on the menu as an appetizer forever, although we usually go for an antipasto platter for both of us to munch on while we are deciding on what is to come. Linguine with clams; lasagna; chicken Florentine; and New York steak are all are long-time favorites with the regulars who fill the booths.

There are two rooms, neither very large, with the bar in the middle. We have concluded that the smaller side room is a better place to find celebrities, like George Clooney and Alec Baldwin, separately and recently (we happened to notice them there; Dan Tana doesn't give out names). Only dinner is served, but the kitchen is open Monday-Saturday, 5pm to 1am; and Sunday, 5pm to 12:30am – one of the few places that is open and even lively after a show or a game. Reservations are supposed to be a must, but we have dropped in on the spur of the moment many times

and have always been seated, though sometimes after a wait at the bar. It is just east of Doheny, next door to the Troubadour. Valet parking.

Don't worry about the overhanging Chianti bottles in Dan Tana's – they are carefully dusted three times a week.

★★ **THE IVY**
113 North Robertson Boulevard
☎ 310-274-8303
Contemporary American
Very Expensive

"Star-studded" is what this place is sometimes called, especially the front patio on Robertson on a nice day. Definitely the home of power meals. If you saw *Get Shorty* you remember that lunch scene: that was here. On the menu you'll find meat loaf, crab cakes, even a hamburger – but at prices that take it out of the "hamburger joint" class. Lunch and dinner daily, 11:30am-10:15pm (last orders taken), Sunday brunch starts at 10:30am.

★★ **LE DOME**
8720 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-659-6919
California-continental
Expensive

Everyone who is anyone in Hollywood has eaten or is eating at Le Dôme. It is like a rite of passage – coming here validates one's rise to stardom. It's popular with the more established celebrities, but all the generations – everyone from Liz Taylor to Britney Spears, from rockers to opera stars – are seen here sooner or later.

Le Dôme was started 25 years ago by 50 people who put money in a pot; investors included some movie stars, but also people like Walter O'Malley, owner of the Dodgers, and a butcher at the farmers' market. The result was an elegant place with soft, flattering lighting. You are as likely to see celebs at lunch as at dinner. Like a lot of places, the continental cooking has taken on light California touches. Open for lunch and dinner, Monday-Friday, noon to 10:30pm (sometimes a bit later, especially on Friday); Saturday, dinner only, 5:30pm until 11 or midnight.

★★ L'ORANGERIE

903 North La Cienega Boulevard
☎ 310-652-9770
www.orangerie.com
French
Very Expensive

L'Orangerie is one of only two restaurant members of Relais & Châteaux in Los Angeles.

Celebrities dine here, of course, but so does much of the Westside's power elite and what passes for society. This was probably the last place in town that required ties for men (a policy that has since been relaxed). The formal dining room with candlelight, potted orange trees and a towering lily arrangement suggests the fantasy of an 18th-century orangerie; the garden room, with a roof that opens when the weather is warm, has its own charm.

The food is very French, as we can attest (we have eaten here a few times). Even if you order something very ordinary, such as a filet of fish or a steak, it will have a treatment or a sauce that gives it a different taste than you had expected. There is an eight-course prix fixe menu for $95, and a four-course vegetarian one for $58. The wine list starts at $25 and goes to $4,000, but you are bringing your platinum credit card, right? *Très chic, très cher.*

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The only restaurant in Los Angeles that is more expensive than L'Orangerie is **Ginza Sushi-Ko** in Beverly Hills, a sushi place that is the most expensive restaurant in the US, at around $300 a person.

There are more than 120 eateries in West Hollywood, from sidewalk tables to glamorous dining.

The list of celebrities who dine here seems endless: Warren Beatty and Annette Bening, Marlon Brando, Sean Connery, Mel Gibson, Dustin Hoffman, Gregory Peck, Sidney Poitier, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Kevin Spacey, Barbra Streisand, Elizabeth Taylor, Billy Wilder, Denzel Washington and many more. L'Orangerie is open Tuesday-Sunday, 6 to 11pm; call for reservations after 9am weekdays, after 3pm Saturday and Sunday. The restaurant is between Melrose and Santa Monica, on the west side of the street. Valet parking.

★★ LUCQUES

8474 Melrose Avenue
☎ 323-655-6277
Mediterranean
Expensive

Silent star Harold Lloyd once owned this building on Melrose just east of La Cienega; it was built as a carriage house, and the original bricks and half-timbers have been kept. The chef lets the food itself be the star, rather than making a showy presentation, which is all to the good. You can dine on the patio, but inside seems nicer, with leather sofas in front of the fireplace. This place has been a very hot ticket, so reservations are highly recommended. Tuesday-Saturday, noon-2:30pm and 6-11pm; bar menu served until midnight. Sundays, 5:30-10pm, with a prix fixe dinner for $30.

The name of the restaurant (pronounced "Luke") is a type of French olive.

★★ MORTON'S

8764 Melrose Avenue
☎ 310-276-5205
New American
Expensive

Even though two stars by the restaurant's name means a place where you might see celebrities, we are tempted to put three stars in front of Morton's. It has been for some years *the* power restaurant for the industry. The biggest stars come here after the Oscar ceremony. One year the restaurant threw a party on what would have been Marilyn Monroe's 75th birthday to raise funds for Hollygrove Orphanage in Hollywood, where she lived for a time.

The dining room is large and tables are spaced well apart; this is good for those holding private conversations, but it makes celeb-spotting more difficult. Monday night is the big night for star-watching. Many ordinary people are discouraged from even trying for reservations then; we noticed a guidebook that said about Mondays, "tourists are discouraged with vehemence." We have not found this to be so. We phoned one weekend for a reservation Monday at 8:30pm and got it. And cheerfully, with no vehemence in sight.

The food, incidentally – which is not what most people come here for – is standard fare with nouvelle touches,

and strong on steak. And yes, you do see beaucoup stars. Lunch, Monday-Friday, noon-2:30pm; dinner, Monday-Saturday, 6-9:30pm. Valet parking.

★★ PALM

9001 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-550-8811
Steak, lobster
Expensive

Don't worry about what to wear to dinner at Palm; you will see everything from jackets and ties to T-shirts.

Palm started in New York 75 years ago. There is a story that the original restaurant was founded by two emigrants from Parma, Italy, who planned to call it after their hometown but their accents got in the way and it has been Palm ever since. This one has been here 25 years. We remember that when it opened, show-biz folk flocked in right away; they still do. Probably more picture deals are made here than at Paramount, so many that there is a handy notepad on every table.

We were here for dinner recently. It still has the same booths with upright, not-too-comfortable wooden backs; narrow aisles; stamped tin ceiling; and a noise level so high it is hard to hear what the other person in your booth is saying (which might explain some of the pictures we have been seeing).

The waiters (male and female), are a good combination of New York efficiency and Los Angeles friendliness. The first thing the waiter does is set down a basket that contains four or five kinds of bread. The sourdough is tart and tastes as if it is flown in fresh from San Francisco. We know that the cheesecake, at the other end of the meal, is flown in from the Bronx.

The main thing to remember here is that portions are big. We mean *huge*. Filet mignon, pork chops, double lamb chops; the specials might be 24-oz. steaks and four-pound lobsters. One of us had a salmon filet that must have weighed two pounds, the other had a double order of the shrimp served as an appetizer, which was just right as an entrée. There are also a few pasta dishes. We have never ordered one of them, but we are sure you would be up to your elbows in pasta.

There is a bar, but it isn't a neighborhood place where people hang out. A lot of industry people come here, writers

and directors as well as actors. The night we were here we noticed Blythe Danner at a nearby table. She seemed to be having a good time. As we left with our doggie bags we stopped to talk for a moment with manager Louis Deomaestro, whom everyone calls Gigi, who has been here from the beginning. We inquired if there was anyone else here we might know. He eyed us doubtfully and asked if we had ever heard of a Gen-X band called Limp Bizkit. Of course we had! Then we should know Fred Durst, the lead singer. Of course we did! How old did he think we were? He didn't answer. Open Monday-Friday, 11:30am-10:30pm; Saturday, 5-10:30pm; Sunday, 5 to 9:30pm. Valet parking.

Casual Dining

★★ **TAIL O' THE PUP**
329 North San Vicente Boulevard
(near Beverly Boulevard)
☎ 310-652-4517
Hot dogs
Inexpensive

The thing that distinguishes this hot dog stand from every other hot dog stand is its shape – it looks like a giant hot dog bun with mustard and an extra long wiener sticking out both ends. LA used to be full of this kind of eye-catching, vernacular architecture, but it is almost all gone now. Stars drop by here occasionally. Eddie Blake, the owner, has photos on the wall of Pamela Anderson, Ryan O'Neal, Barbra Streisand and Denzel Washington when they happened by. Magic Johnson comes in fairly often. Jay Leno's a regular (but not very loyal, he goes to Pink's for hot dogs, too), and Neil Diamond recently sent Eddie tickets to his concert. Woody Allen used a passing shot of it in *Annie Hall* (of course, that was to illustrate Hollywood's general tackiness). Tail o' the Pup is open daily, 6am-5pm.

The "Boston Celtic dog" with baked beans is the Tail's most popular item.

IN THE VERNACULAR

Tail o' the Pup is one of the few remaining examples of what has been called vernacular architecture – buildings shaped like the things they sell. Starting in the 1920s and lasting through the '40s, you could find these buildings all over LA – ice cream stands shaped like giant cones, "Dutch" bakeries topped with working windmills, enormous coffee pots. There were a few examples of similar structures elsewhere in the country, but LA was where it really proliferated. The idea behind it was logical: to draw the attention of someone speeding by in a car as no ordinary sign ever could.

For architecture purists, the Tail is almost one of a kind these days. There is a much-photographed donut stand in Inglewood with a gigantic donut up in the air on top of it, but that is not the same thing – the stand itself is just a stand, not shaped like a donut. And the famed original Brown Derby restaurant had a hat on the roof, the slogan was "Eat in the Hat," but that missed the mark, too. It would have been vernacular architecture only if they had sold *hats*.

Where did all the rest of the vernacular buildings go? Most of them were cheaply made and when the land they sat on became too valuable, they were simply torn down. That almost happened to Tail o' the Pup, but Eddie Blake saved it and moved it to its present location. Some people ridicule it as tacky, others love it for the same reason. In any case, it certainly represents Hollywood's golden age.

Tail o' the Pup has been seen in over a hundred films and TV shows.

★ **BARNEY'S BEANERY**
8447 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 323-654-2287
American
Inexpensive

We have been coming here for years, when we just feel like a beer and a sandwich or bowl of chili, at lunch or on the way home after a show. It is always open and always crowded with a young show biz crowd, lots of actors and dancers. It started as a wooden shack with a bar and is now three or four (it is hard to tell) connected shacks with many booths, a few pool tables and a high noise level. It has the biggest menu you will ever see: scores of hamburgers, dozens of sandwiches, tens of omelets, countless variations on basic chili, and over 200 brands of beer from all over the world. This is not the place to come and settle for a plain burger and a bottle of Bud. Live!

Barney's Beanery on Santa Monica Boulevard was Ronald Reagan's hang-out in his early Hollywood days.

Barney's is just east of La Cienega, at the bend where Santa Monica Boulevard curves to the left and the street going on straight ahead becomes Holloway Drive. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, until 1:30am. Parking is available on the street and in the lot next door.

Shop Till You Drop

Take off the red shoes.

– Moira Shearer, *The Red Shoes*

If you are looking for things you can get in any department store or chain store, duplicates of which are found in every city, don't bother shopping in West Hollywood. You won't find it here. The same goes for furnishings, décor and design. This is the place where you will find new things before anyone else in the country has imagined them. That is why so many celebrities shop here.

★ TIP

You can find a particular shop in West Hollywood through the Web site www.shopsmb.com.

There are concentrations of stores in three primary areas; where you shop depends on what you are looking for.

Santa Monica Boulevard

Free parking is available behind the storefronts.

The boulevard is a great place just to stroll and look at the window displays. Most of the action is between Crescent Heights and Robertson; shopping is all along here amid lots of sidewalk dining. Look for men's clothing, especially very sharp casual wear.

TRASH WITH CLASS
8271 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 323-654-8789

In this shop, west of Crescent Heights Boulevard, the focus is on used theatrical gowns, feather boas, wigs, and knickknacks. It is an eccentric place, but the signed photos of celebrities on the wall attest to something.

DREAM DRESSER
8444 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 323-848-3480

Drop in for the kind of erotic apparel you definitely won't find in most small towns. The store is just before the bend in Santa Monica Boulevard.

Stars such as Julia Roberts drop by The Paper Bag Princess to check the racks.

THE PAPER BAG PRINCESS
8700 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-358-1985

You'll find the shop about halfway between La Cienega and San Vicente; it stocks hard-to-find vintage couture.

Sunset Boulevard

Sunset Boulevard in the Sunset Plaza area, between La Cienega and San Vicente, is rife with boutiques full of high-end women's clothes.

CLUB MONACO
8569 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-659-3821

This store, just west of La Cienega, is known for trendy casual wear.

★★ **TRACEY ROSS**
8595 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-854-1996

Just a few doors from Club Monaco and next door to a bustling coffee shop. Tracey Ross, a Farrah Fawcett lookalike, has an intimate little hangout with blue walls and chandeliers, that she seems to run as much like a place for her friends to drop by as a shop. But quite a few of her friends happen to be celebrities and the goods are very high-end and chic. Look for bias-cut slip dresses, hip-hugging trousers and little cashmere sweaters. A few items – T-shirts, a scarf or two – are under $100, but most things sell for $200 to $500.

HERVE LEGER
8619 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-360-6740

This is the place to shop if you are in the market for a gown to attend the Oscars; it is a few doors down from Tracey Ross.

WARNING!

If you are what most of the country considers a "normal" size – 10, 12 or 14 – you might have problems finding much you can squeeze into at many of the boutiques along Sunset. Tracey Ross, for instance, carries a few items in sizes 10 and 12 (huge by Hollywood standards), but the most popular sizes are definitely 4, 6 and 8.

TOP SUNSET BOULEVARD BOUTIQUES

- **Calypso**, 8635 Sunset Boulevard, ☎ 310-652-4454.
- **Nicole Miller**, 8663 Sunset Boulevard, ☎ 310-657-6121.
- **Anna Sui**, 8669 Sunset Boulevard, ☎ 310-360-6224.
- **Kenzo**, 8711 Sunset Boulevard, ☎ 310-360-0433.

HUSTLER HOLLYWOOD
8920 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-860-9009

Hustler Hollywood is billed as "the world's premier erotic department store."

This large place, near San Vicente a few blocks west of Sunset Plaza, is owned by Larry Flynt, publisher of *Hustler Magazine*. A big assortment of hip, alternative clothing, with a full line of luxurious lingerie. But you will also find sensual candles, soaps and creams, adult novelties and a coffee and juice bar, plus a huge newsstand-bookstore.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Sunset Boulevard is one of Los Angeles's oldest and longest thoroughfares. Originally a footpath used by the Indians to get from the LA River to the coast, it was later used as a wagon road by the earliest settlers in the pueblo. Today, the boulevard follows the route of the old trail along the lower edge of the foothills for 22 miles from Downtown Los Angeles to the sea.

Robertson Boulevard

★★ **KITSON'S**
115 South Robertson Boulevard
☎ 310-859-2652

Kitson's carries a wide range of clothing (including baby clothes), gift items, jewelry, and cosmetics. Although it is not particularly a haven for denim, Cher once spotted an embellished denim jacket hanging on a rack. "How much?" she asked the salesgirl. The girl was embarrassed to say it was her own jacket, so she pulled a figure out of the rarified air and told Cher it was $850. Cher ordered two more.

Art & Design District

AVENUES OF ART & DESIGN
That is how the city is promoting this pedestrian-friendly area centering around Melrose Avenue and Beverly and Robertson boulevards, in the section of town west of La Cienega. You will find over 100 interior design and furniture showrooms, and stores selling fine fabrics, imported tile, antiques and specialty items alongside high fashion boutiques. These few blocks are frequented by studio set designers looking for ideas.

There are 30 art galleries in the Art & Design section of West Hollywood.

PACIFIC DESIGN CENTER
8687 Melrose Avenue
☎ 310-657-0800

The Design Center, on the north side of Melrose Avenue near San Vicente Boulevard, anchors the district, with 130 showrooms in one building. All of the shops are open to public to come in and look, but some sell only to the trade, and even those shops occasionally have public sales. The Museum of Contemporary Art has a satellite MOCA Gallery in the Pacific Design Center; ☎ 310-289-5223.

Specialty Stores & Services

Antiques

ANTIQUARIUS
8840 Beverly Boulevard
☎ 310-274-2363

A collection of antiques and estate jewelry stores under one roof; just west of Robertson.

THE COLLECTION
315 South Robertson
☎ 323-876-2245

This building houses a huge showroom filled with antiques and collectibles. North of Beverly Boulevard.

Bakeries

BASIX
8333 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 323-848-2460

Basix is a café that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, but the bakery is the big attraction for us, especially the big muffin made from sour cream pound cake dough and topped with cinnamon streusel ($1.60). Open daily, 7am-11pm.

EXOTIC CAKES
1068 South Fairfax Avenue
☎ 323-938-2286

Roger Rodriguez says that of the 60 to 80 cakes he bakes each week, about 40% are naughty. Whitney Houston, before she was married, ordered a cake in the shape of boobs and had the decorative writing on it say "I'm here, where are you?" and added her phone number. Now there is an idea. Whoopi Goldberg, Madonna and Sylvester Stallone are also customers. You will have to guess at their messages. Anyway, if you are in the market for a cake...

★★ **SWEET LADY JANE**
8360 Melrose Avenue
☎ 323-653-7145

This bakery, a few blocks east of La Cienega, is where the celebrities come to get their brownies.

Beauty & Health

BORRELLI SALON
8623 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-652-9597

If you need your hair colored or cut while you are here, visit Borrelli, just west of La Cienega.

FACE PLACE
8701 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-855-1150

This salon is a few doors down from Borrelli; come in and pamper your skin.

JESSICA'S NAIL CLINIC
8627 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-659-9292

For more pampering, luxurious manicures and pedicures are the specialty at Jessica's, in the Sunset Plaza area.

OLE HENRICKSEN FACE & BODY SALON
8601 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-854-7700

Skin care in a spa atmosphere, offering facials, massages, and more. By appointment only.

★★ **CRUNCH FITNESS**
8000 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 323-654-4550

This gym at the east end of the strip is where *A Night at the Roxbury* was filmed, and it's a place where you are apt to see stars sweating as well as preening. Besides the usual bench press and walkers, popular classes include

The movie Perfect *was filmed at another West Hollywood gym, The Sports Connection, at 8612 Santa Monica Boulevard.*

the **Goddess Workout** (belly dancing with scarves), **Circus Sports** (tumbling and acrobatics), and **DJ Ride** (aerobics accompanied by a disc jockey). Get a day pass ($23) to try it out. We were told that Margaret Cho, Fabio, Ellen DeGeneres, Taye Diggs, Jerry and Charlie O'Connell, and Ian Ziering worked out during a recent two-day stretch.

WARNING!

At Crunch Fitness both the men's and the women's shower stalls are frosted glass; the silhouettes of those inside are visible from the lobby. If your silhouette is not all that perfect, you can always shower at your hotel.

Books

AUDUBON HOUSE
Plummer Park
7377 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 323-876-0202

You'll find everything for the birder here, with over 2,000 books on birds for sale, plus audios, videos and gift items, including clocks that sing each hour in a different bird song.

Beverly Center Mall, at Beverly and La Cienega, is where Scenes From a Mall *was shot.*

DID YOU KNOW?

Plummer Park in West Hollywood is the center of LA's Russian community, which has been emigrating from the Soviet Union, then Russia, over the last 50 years.

A DIFFERENT LIGHT
8853 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-854-6601

Books for and about the lesbian-gay community; frequent author signings and events.

HERITAGE BOOK SHOP
8540 Melrose Avenue
☎ 310-659-3674

This shop, just off La Cienega, is a primary source for first edition, rare and unusual books.

ELLIOT M. KATT BOOKS ON THE PERFORMING ARTS
8568 Melrose Avenue
☎ 310-652-5178

Elliot M. Katt specializes in hard-to-find books on the performing arts, and has a large film book collection; a few doors from Heritage.

BODHI TREE BOOKSTORE
8585 Melrose Avenue
☎ 310-659-4428
www.bodhitree.com

In the same stretch of Melrose as Heritage and Elliot M. Katt, this shop specializes in Eastern and Western religions, astrology and occult books.

★★ **BOOK SOUP**
8818 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-659-3110
www.booksoup.com

Book Soup is strong in subjects of interest to its show-biz clientele: art, photography, film and literary fiction. They also have general fiction and non-fiction titles. You might see Nicolas Cage or Marlee Matlin browsing; celebrities do readings and book signings here. Open 365 days, 9am-midnight.

Home Items

LEMON TREE BUNGALOW
8727 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-657-0211

Shop for candles and home fragrances in, of course, a cute lemon-colored bungalow.

HOMEBODY
8500 Melrose Avenue
☎ 310-659-2917, 800-838-5507

You'll find a good selection of candles, incense and aromatherapy items.

Farmers' Market

PLUMMER PARK
Fountain Avenue at Vista Street
North Parking Lot
☎ 323-848-6502

In addition to great fruit and veggies, the market has flowers, bonsai plants, honey and handmade craft items. Mondays, 9am-2pm.

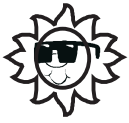
Shoes

★★ **ANDRE NO. 1 SHOE DESIGN**
7914 Sunset Boulevard (next to the Director's Guild)
☎ 323-876-5565

A must for those who want the best shoe made just for them. Andre Rostomyan makes platform boots for members of the band KISS and leather shoes for Prince. He will measure your feet and make whatever you desire, whether it's elegant shoes for evening, or casual little numbers; he also makes shoes for professional dancers. Choose satin, cotton, velvet, imitation suede or leather; Andre can shape them all, as he has for Drew Barrymore, Neil Diamond, Amy Irving, Keanu Reeves and Alicia Silverstone, among many others.

KENNETH COLE
8752 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-289-5085

This designer is well known for funky footwear.



Sunup to Sundown

Historic Architecture

R.M. SCHINDLER STUDIO & RESIDENCE
835 North Kings Road
☎ 323-651-1510
www.makcenter.com

This building, once architect Rudolph Schindler's residence and studio, is one of the most significant works of architecture in West Hollywood. Exhibitions, lectures, performances and workshops are held seasonally. The exhibition space is open to the public Wednesday-Sunday, 11am-6pm, with docent-led tours on Saturday and Sunday; admission is $5. The center's bookstore is open daily, from 11am-6pm.

★ TIP

The City of West Hollywood distributes a special events calendar every six months. Call ☎ 800-368-6020.

Recreation

Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, is the largest of the city parks. It has tennis and basketball courts and picnic tables. Two parking lots.

West Hollywood Park, 647 North San Vicente Boulevard, has tennis, basketball, softball, children's play equipment, lots of green areas, and a few picnic tables. Free parking.

Kings Road Park, 1000 Kings Rd., is very small, with a few picnic tables, children's play area, and pond. Street parking.

William S. Hart Park, 8341 DeLongpre Avenue, has grassy areas, benches and a fountain. The home of early film star William S. Hart is here, but not open to the public. Street parking.

SUMMER SOUNDS

Outdoor concerts are held on Sundays in June, July and August in various West Hollywood parks. Performances range from Broadway tunes to Eastern European klezmer to country – a great excuse for a picnic. Call ☎ 323-848-6530 or visit www.visitwesthollywood.com.

After Dark

Here's looking at you, kid.

– Humphrey Bogart, *Casablanca*

Sunset Strip

Fat Tuesday is celebrated in West Hollywood with costumes, music, eats and typical Mardi Gras entertainment.

This is the part of West Hollywood that has always been famous. The TV series was called *77 Sunset Strip*, not West Hollywood. This is where the glamour was to be found at night, from the late 1920s through the '30s. The Mocambo nightclub was on Sunset then, near Sunset Plaza. That is where the stars went, and the paparazzi followed (only they weren't called that in those days) to take flash pictures with Speed Graphics of beautiful people and wild doings.

Marie Windsor was working as a cigarette girl at **Mocambo** where producer Arthur Hornblow Jr. saw her and recommended her for a part in a picture. Hollywood's elite, from Betty Grable and Lana Turner to Clark Gable and Humphrey Bogart, came to hear acts like Lena Horne and Vic Damone.

It was at the Mocambo that Charlie Chaplin, who was with Marion Davies, paid the doorman for his uniform and directed traffic in the middle of the street. And some star (was it Franchot Tone?) hit another star and knocked him down. There was a fair amount of that, perhaps because there was a lot of booze consumed in those days. Or at least the papers played it up. It closed in 1958 and was demolished (we always need more parking lots).

SUNSET STRIP GRIDLOCK

The Strip is such a potent attraction that young drivers from the Valley and other parts of Los Angeles have made a tribal habit of cruising, especially on summer weekend nights. It sometimes becomes so difficult for patrons to reach the restaurants and clubs that a cruising ban is clamped down: Sheriff's Deputies are stationed and drivers caught passing more than twice through the checkpoints are cited; fines go up to $500.

In 1934 Billy Wilkerson, publisher of the trade paper *Hollywood Reporter*, opened **Café Trocadero**, a French-themed late-night club on Sunset Boulevard. The stars flocked there: Fred Astaire, Bing Crosby, Sonja Henie, Jean Harlow, William Powell, Tyrone Power and Robert Taylor. It all seemed more glamorous when they rubbed elbows with gangsters Mickey Cohen, Tony Cornero, Johnny Roselli and Bugsy Siegel. In the cigar smoke-filled backroom every Saturday night the moguls who ran the studios, Sam Goldwyn, Carl Laemmle Jr., Joseph Shenck, Irving Thalberg and Darryl Zanuck, had a high-stakes poker game.

★ TIP

The old Troc is long gone but a new **Sunset Trocadero Lounge** has risen a few blocks away. It is smaller and less glamorous, but with a lively bar scene and a patio out on the Boulevard to see and be seen. Open 6pm to 2am, dinner served to 1:30am; valet parking ($4.50). 8280 Sunset Boulevard, ☎ 323-656-7161.

West Hollywood's normal population of 37,000 swells to 250,000 on summer weekend nights.

Ciros, another famous nightclub also owned by Billy Wilkerson, was a few blocks east, toward La Cienega. That is where Lili St. Cyr, a well-known stripper, was busted in 1951 for taking a bubble bath on stage in a giant champagne glass that was short on bubbles.

Because it was the County Strip, not the city, law enforcement was provided by the Sheriff's Department and somehow the Sheriff didn't notice there was a gambling casino a few feet up the hill, looking down on the Boulevard.

Bars

BAR MARMONT
8171 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 323-650-0575

The walls are horsehide, the hanging lights came from a Dutch turn-of-the-century factory, the floor is from a building in Paris and the bricks from a 1920s Fairfax district market. It all adds up to... something. But the guys like it because a lot of models, and girls who look like they should be models, hang out here. And if you happen to be around the third Sunday of the month, Constance, the exotic hostess, throws a "Bad & Beautiful" bash.

The downside is some of the drinks the bar pushes. Like a Butterfly's Kiss (vanilla vodka and Frangelico with a cinnamon stick); or a Marmont Cosmo (raspberry vodka, triple sec and lime). Other than that, while the Sky Bar and Standard Lounge sometimes seem to want to X-ray a fella's credentials to be sure he is authentically hip, any of

the rest of us who are not-sure-we're-really-that-cool can just sidle in here. No cover, 21 and older.

★★ **SKY BAR**
Mondrian Hotel
8440 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 323-848-6025

Despite its name, this bar is on the lobby level of the Mondrian Hotel, so the view is good, but not spectacular. Given the stylish, white-on-white hotel where it is located, the décor is incongruously rustic, but it is still a magnet for hip Hollywood types, including celebrities. A hard place to get into on good nights; reservations are strongly advised.

Be aware: The Mondrian Hotel has a $15 valet parking charge.

Cabarets

Cabaret started in Paris' Montmartre district in the late 1800s, but didn't get anywhere in this country until Prohibition, when it came about spontaneously as chanteuses began singing in basements and back rooms while patrons quenched their illegal thirst. After Prohibition, speakeasies became supper clubs, where alcohol was now sold legally. The definition of a cabaret is a venue that sells booze; otherwise is it a theater. In a cabaret, the entertainment is usually either musical comedy or torchy, ironic, sophisticated material.

GARDENIA
7066 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 323-467-7444

This is one of the two prime cabarets (the other is Cinegrill in Hollywood, see page 177) in the Los Angeles area. Quite a few new performers try out their material here. Andrea Marcovicci, probably the top cabaret diva in the country, got her start at Gardenia and still plays in this small, peach-tinted room when she is in LA. Gardenia is open Monday-Saturday; dinner (International-Italian) is served from 7 to 10pm, and shows are at 9pm; $10 cover, two drink minimum, over 21.

WATCH OUT FOR...

The latest fad, concocted in Taiwan and known as "boba teas," has washed up on Westside shores. The sweet drinks, sipped through wide, brightly colored straws, are blended like martinis in metal cocktail shakers. The secret ingredient is gummy balls of tapioca. Sells for $3 to $4. We are not making this up, honest!

★ TIP

When you hear someone refer to "the Westside" (or you read it in these pages), the term refers to the area west of Downtown LA, which takes in, roughly, the area past Western Avenue, including Hollywood, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and all the the neighborhoods out to the coast.

Comedy

THE COMEDY STORE
8433 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 323-656-6225
www.thecomedystore.com

Robin Williams, Richard Pryor, Jim Carrey and Andy Kaufman are some of the best-known alumni of this place. Stand-up comedy, sketch comedy and themed shows. The club has three stages, with shows nightly; call to see what is playing where. Full bar, two drink minimum. $5-$20.

Clubs

BARFLY
8730 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-360-9490
Rock, Pop

There is a Barfly in Paris; this is a spinoff with a restaurant for dinner and a spacious bar. The velvet rope is often up, so call ahead to make reservations, either for dinner or for what comes after. Tuesday and Wednesday are Moulin Rouge nights, with dinner dancing, in keeping with the French twist. Thursday is dinner dancing with a DJ, Friday likewise with a mix of music. The whole lineup may change while you are reading this, but it looks as if it will continue to be an easygoing, popular place. Tuesday-Saturday, 7:30pm to 2am; no cover, dress is upscale casual. Phone for new information and reservations.

★★ **BELLY**
7929 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 323-692-1068
Hip-hop, R&B, Jazz and Funk

This is a relaxed, casual tapas lounge with a DJ and tiny dance floor that may be the best place for singles in town. Everything is reasonably priced, and tapas portions are large. The place doesn't seem to be trying to attract celebrities, but they come in regardless. Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown have been seen here; Farrah Fawcett was here for San Francisco Giant Barry Bonds' birthday bash. Belly is open nightly, 6pm to 2am; food is served until 1am. 21 and older; no cover. Casual dress; not everyone is in that black-on-black club tradition, but the women still tend to dress up more than the guys. Just west of Fairfax; valet parking.

CLUB BRASSERIE
Wyndham Bel Age Hotel
1020 North San Vicente Boulevard
☎ 310-358-7776 evening; 310-854-1111 days;
310-358-7712 for recorded jazz information

Jazz afficionados like this place, especially on Friday and Saturday nights from October to May, when it becomes home to the **Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz**; scheduled performers are frequently joined on stage by major jazz artists. You can come in and hear jazz all summer. Happy hour from 5-8pm; dinner, 8-12pm; music, 9pm-1am. Dress code: casual-hip; no plain T-shirts, but "semi-formal" T-shirts are fine. Cover $10, valet parking $2.

HOUSE OF BLUES
8430 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 313-848-5100
Rock, Jazz, Blues, Rap and Reggae

Outside it looks like an ancient Southern Delta gin mill sheathed with corrugated tin. Inside it is big, with 1,000-person capacity, and faux-Mississippi décor, but the sight lines and the sound system are good. Cuisine is "new Southern." The cover is $10-$40, depending on who is headlining. Full bar, over 21. There is a Sunday brunch with gospel singing.

★★ **KEY CLUB**
9039 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-274-5800 (information); 310-274-5800 (tickets)
Old-school Punk, Rap, Rock, R&B to Tango

Keanu Reeves, Wesley Snipes, comedian Pauly Shore, and basketball stars Dennis Rodman and Shaquille O'Neal have been known to show up here. Some nights you will see **Camerata Tango**, a showy dance and aerial performance; other times you'll join rock-industry types and talent agents sizing up the bands on stage. One night each month they hold "The Carnival, a Choreographer's Night." Some of the best young dancers and working choreographers try out their new material in a two-hour show in front of an inside crowd connected to the world of professional dance and music. It is always standing-room-only. Try for reservations.

Key Club has three bars, plus a "tequila library," and serves California cuisine until 1am. The club is generally open Tuesdays-Saturdays, 7pm-2am, but that changes according to what is on the program. There's usually dancing after shows Wednesday-Sunday. The age limit varies, along with the cover charge (from $10 to $22.50), again depending on the program. There is always a line here; have your concierge make reservations.

THE STANDARD
8300 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 323-822-3111
A mixed bag

The bar in the Standard Hotel (see page 200) starts in the lobby conversation pit, where there is a DJ at the nearby registration desk (doesn't every hotel registration desk have a DJ?), continues into the Joshua Tree mural lounge, and wanders out poolside where you can watch the twinkling lights of the city. There are lots of young actors and wannabes in the 25- to 30-something crowd. To gain admission to the lounge (especially on weekends) you first have to get by Anya Varda, the petite presence with clipboard and the velvet rope. Of course, it is easy if you are staying here.

The lounge has its own entrance to the left of the lobby's main doors. It is a smallish room, with a few swings (de rigueur these days) and a low egg-carton ceiling. The bar is very dark. 21 and older; you had better have reservations.

★ TIP

Looking for something different after dark? **Du-Par's Restaurant & Bakery** (a well-known chain in Southern California) has a location in the lobby of the Ramada West Hollywood, 8585 Santa Monica Boulevard. You can come in for hotcakes and fresh baked stuff, 6am-1am weekdays; to 3am Friday and Saturday.

TROUBADOUR
9081 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-276-6168
Folk, Rock, Comedy

Clubs come and go, but Troubadour is forever, since more than 40 years qualifies as forever in Hollywood. The acts that have played here make quite a list: Lenny Bruce, the Byrds, Judy Collins, Bill Cosby, the Committee, Bo Diddley, Arlo Guthrie, Richie Havens, Elton John, Gordon Lightfoot, Steve Martin, Roger Miller, Joni Mitchell, Mort Sahl, Kris Kristofferson and Nina Simone. Some played here at early, crucial points in their careers, and have come back repeatedly since they have been anointed as stars; Linda Ronstadt and Emmylou Harris returned as a duo recently. There are three bars; the cover may be anywhere from $0 to $20, depending on the act. All ages are welcome, but sometimes there is a small (like $3) entrance fee for those under 21.

★★ **VIPER ROOM**
8852 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-358-1880
Rock

Johnny Depp created this Hollywood haven on the Strip. You might see Ben Stiller and Charlize Theron, Cameron Diaz, George Clooney, Cher, or Sex Pistol Johnny Rotten at the bar. Nicolas Cage and Sean Penn were in on the same night. But it will probably always be known best as the place where River Phoenix collapsed on the sidewalk outside. Everything from heavy metal to a very wet T-shirt contest on Mondays. Monday-Saturday, cover $7-$15, full bar, over 21.

★★ **WHISKY A GO-GO**
8901 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-652-4202
Rock, all styles

Children as young as 13 may come to the Whisky with their parents, as long as they don't drink.

This practically historic place has been here over 35 years. This is where bands like The Doors, KISS, Chicago, and Guns N' Roses started. More recently, Rage Against the Machine, Korn and Limp Bizkit made a name for themselves here. It is still a crucial spot for touring bands and

local aspirants, and draws fans such as Nicolas Cage and Rosanna Arquette. Open nightly, with two bars; cover $10 weekdays, $12-$15 weekends; all ages.

★ TIP

Escape to tranquility at **Elixir Tonics and Teas**, a haven of quiet in a Japanese-style teahouse in the midst of West Hollywood's buzz. 8612 Melrose Avenue (at San Vicente), ☎ 310-657-9300. Open daily, 9am-9pm; Sunday, 11am-7pm.

Theaters

Most live theaters in town are 99-seat or smaller, and there are literally hundreds, with new productions all the time. See the *Los Angeles Times Calendar* section, or *LA Weekly* (free) theater listings. There are a few larger houses in West Hollywood.

TIFFANY THEATRE
8532 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-289-2999

A mid-size house with good views from all seats, the Tiffany presents new plays, with a leaning toward self-absorbed one-person shows.

CORONET THEATRE
366 North La Cienega Boulevard
☎ 310-657-7377

This venue often presents interesting plays (of course, that depends on what interests you) in a comfortable 284-seat theater. Valet parking is $5 if you don't find a space on La Cienega. Do not park on the side streets, as that is permit parking for residents only, and you will be ticketed.

HISTORIC NOTE

The Coronet Theatre began life in the 1930s as the Turnabout Theatre. **Elsa Lanchester** would present wonderful monologues and scenes on a stage at one end of the theater. After her performance, the audience would turn around to face the stage at the other end, where a puppeteer would perform.

West Hollywood A to Z

Counseling

Statscript Pharmacy, 8490 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite J, ☎ 310-657-4333. Consulting and pharmacy for living with HIV/AIDS.

Women Helping Women Counseling Talkline, ☎ 323-655-3807. Help with depression, crisis, domestic problems.

Currency Exchange

Hyatt West Hollywood Hotel, 8401 Sunset Boulevard, ☎ 323-656-1234, exchanges foreign to US as courtesy for guests, but bank rates are better.

Thomas Cook Exchange Service, 806 Hilldale Avenue, ☎ 310-659-6093, provides currency exchange, travelers checks and other financial services.

Libraries

West Hollywood Library, 715 North San Vicente Boulevard, ☎ 310-652-5340, (between Santa Monica and Melrose, across from the Blue Whale). Open Monday-Wednesday, 10am-8pm; Friday and Saturday, 10am-5pm.

Durant Branch, 1403 North Gardner Street, (one block south of Sunset Boulevard), ☎ 323-876-2741, is open Monday and Tuesday, 12:30-8pm; Wednesday and Thursday, 12:30-5:30pm; Friday and Saturday, 10-5:30pm. Parking is at the corner of DeLongpre. Call for information about upcoming special programs such as magic shows for children.

The Durants never used the Will & Ariel Durant Branch of the library, as they lived in the Los Feliz area.

The June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives has 2,300 fiction and non-fiction books, over 500 periodicals, a large video/audio tape collection, photos, recordings, sculpture, drawings, lithographs. Open every Tuesday and the first Sunday of each month, noon-3pm, and by appointment. 626 North Robertson Boulevard, ☎ 310-659-2478, www.lesbian.org/mazer/.

Locksmiths

In case you get locked out of your rental car:

A-Al's Lock & Key Service. . . . . ☎ 310-672-7988
Academy Locksmith . . . . . ☎ 310-815-8300

Medical Services

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, 8700 Beverly Boulevard, ☎ 310-855-5000, 310-423-3277, www.csmc.edu.

Los Angeles Free Clinic, 8405 Beverly Boulevard, ☎ 323-653-1990.

Newspapers

West Hollywood Independent, ☎ 323-932-6397. Comes out Wednesdays, with local news and tips on entertainment; free.

Police & Fire

Emergency. . . . . ☎ 911
Sheriff & Fire Departments. . . . . ☎ 800-855-8850

Post Offices

Cole Branch, 1125 North Fairfax Avenue, ☎ 323-654-8236, 800-275-8777.

West Branch, 820 North San Vicente Boulevard, ☎ 310-652-5435, 800-275-8777.

Postal Center, 8205 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 1, ☎ 323-654-4090. Copies, fax, FedEx, packaging and sending.

Visitor Information

West Hollywood City Information Hotline, ☎ 323-848-6361.

West Hollywood City Information Hotline, Russian translation, ☎ 323-848-6532.

West Hollywood Convention & Visitors Bureau, Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Avenue, Suite M38, West Hollywood, CA 90069, ☎ 310-289-2525, 800-368-6020, fax 310-289-2529, www.visitwesthollywood.com.

★ TIP

Ask the Visitors Bureau to send you the very informative booklet, Only In West Hollywood. Inside is a Travel Club card good for up to 50% off on various hotels, restaurants, clubs, pubs, shops and museums.

Beverly Hills

All right, Mr. De Mille, I'm ready for my close-up.
– Gloria Swanson, *Sunset Boulevard*

Overview

Hollywood, the San Fernando Valley and Culver City are where the studios are; Downtown Los Angeles is just a place for location shooting; and Malibu is where the stars have second or third homes. Beverly Hills is where more stars live, more expensive shopping is concentrated, and more wealth is stashed and sometimes flaunted, than almost anywhere else on the planet.

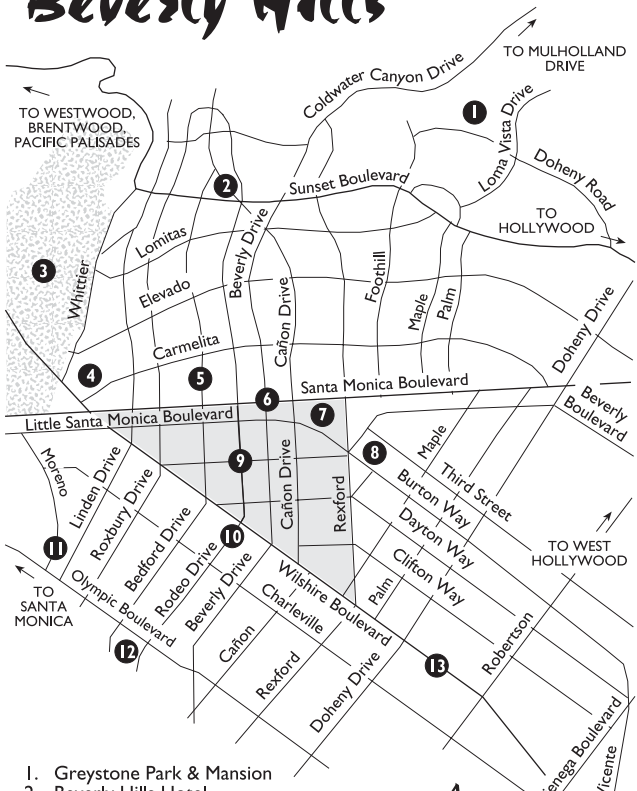
History

Like everywhere else in Southern California, Beverly Hills was a land grant, *El Rancho Rodeo de las Aguas*, "The Ranch of the Gathering of the Water." Streams cascaded down *Cañada de las Aguas Frias* and *Cañada de los Encinos* and ran southeast to where a *cienega*, a swamp, formed in the rainy season. The streams are gone, and the swamp, but the mountain area is still close enough to its original state so you can picture what Coldwater and Benedict canyons must have looked like less than 100 years ago.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The reason most people visit Beverly Hills is "The Golden Triangle," the area bounded by Cañon Drive, Wilshire Boulevard and Little Santa Monica, one of the most expensive shopping districts in the world.

Beverly Hills



1. Greystone Park & Mansion
2. Beverly Hills Hotel
3. Beverly Hills Country Club
4. Witch's House
5. Church of the Good Shepherd
6. Museum of Television & Radio
7. City Hall
8. Court House
9. Golden Triangle: Rodeo Drive and Wilshire Boulevard Shopping Areas
10. Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel
11. Beverly Hills High School
12. Avalon Hotel
13. Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences
14. Margaret Herrick Library

NOT TO SCALE

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The land passed through the hands of several gringos from the East, and by the late 1800s was farmed as "one vast field of lima beans." By 1906 it was subdivided, and wide streets with easy sweeping curves were lined with palm, acacia, eucalyptus and pepper trees. The name Beverly Hills came from Beverly Farms, Massachusetts. But buyers were few, Benedict and Franklin Canyons had to be added to bring the population up to the 500 needed to incorporate as a city.

It all changed in 1919 when Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford bought land and built their home, Pickfair. The migration of motion picture people into Beverly Hills began then and has never ended. The city that started with just 500 population has 32,000 now, which is about capacity.

Getting Here

From LAX

By Car

From the airport, go north on Sepulveda Boulevard to the San Diego Freeway (405). Take that to Santa Monica Boulevard, then go right (east). You are in Westwood as you get off the freeway; soon you will go through Century City. You'll pass the Los Angeles Country Club on your left, and in another few blocks you'll be in Beverly Hills.

By Bus

Take the free shuttle to Lot C; at the nearby Transit Center, go to public bus stop 9 and take Metro Bus #561 to Wilshire Boulevard and Veteran Avenue. Transfer to Metro Bus #20 going east. It will take you to the heart of Beverly Hills on Wilshire Boulevard. Fare is $1.85, plus 25¢ for transfer. Bus #561 runs 5:49am-12:20am, #20 runs 24 hours.

★ PARKING TIP

Because of a lack of parking space for residents, some Beverly Hills streets are out of bounds for visitor parking, and fines are steep. Watch out for South Bedford Drive, 400 block; South Elm Drive, 100 block; South Reeves Drive between Cañon Drive and Crescent Drive, the 100 and 200 blocks; and Charleville Boulevard and Gregory Way between Reeves and Elm, including the 300 block of South Cañon.

By Shuttle

Fees vary by company, but generally $20-$24 for one person, $9 for each additional person, plus tip; no airport fee. Try **Prime Time Shuttle**, ☎ 800-733-8267, www.primetimeshuttle.com; **Super Shuttle**, ☎ 310-782-6600 or 323-775-6600, www.supershuttle.com; or **X-Press**, ☎ 800-427-7483.

By Taxi

The fare is about $27, depending on time of day and traffic, plus a $2.50 airport fee and tip.

Getting Around

By Car

For Beverly Hills traffic information, tune your radio to AM 1500. Street parking is usually hard to find, but there are a number of public parking facilities with one, two or three hours free parking.

If you are in the market to tool around Beverly Hills in something a bit more exotic than the usual compact rental, you can hire a Mercedes from **Budget Rent-A-Car** of Beverly Hills, ☎ 310-274-9178 or 800-729-7350. They also have some new Ferraris you might like; the F355 and F355-F1s have a 24-hour rate of $1,500, and the 550 Maranellos go for $2,500 per day (that does not include the additional charge of $1 per mile). Rental of a Mercedes SUV for an afternoon from Budget Rent-A-Car will cost you $140.

☛ PARKING TIP

There are public parking structures between Santa Monica and Little Santa Monica boulevards on every block from Beverly to Linden; they are metered, at 25¢ for 15 minutes, with a three-hour limit.

By Bus

For schedules and route information, contact **MTA** (Metropolitan Transit Authority), ☎ 213-626-4455; and **Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus**, ☎ 310-451-5444

By Taxi

Taxis are available at all Beverly Hills hotels. Try **A Taxi Co.**, ☎ 310-829-4222; **Beverly Hills Taxi Co.**, ☎ 310-273-6611; or **Independent Taxi**, ☎ 310-521-TAXI.

By Limousine

There are 16 chauffeured limousine companies serving Beverly Hills, among them: **Dav El Limousines**, ☎ 310-550-0070; **Mercedes Limousine Service**, ☎ 310-271-8559; and **Rocket Express Limousine**, ☎ 310-559-5162.

FILM GLOSSARY

Grip – Crew member responsible for the moving and operation of camera support equipment: tripod, dolly, etc.

Who Lives Here?

The obvious answer to that question is "lots of stars." In the beginning there were two favored residential areas: one was between Santa Monica Boulevard and Sunset Boulevard, and the other was in the foothills above the Beverly Hills Hotel, north of Sunset. Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford built Pickfair there on Summit Drive, which was Hollywood's Shangri-la for decades. Now Pia Zadora has it. Harold Lloyd built Greenacres, an oversize mansion on 20-some acres, on Greenacres Drive off Benedict Canyon. Ron Berkle, a supermarket mogul, owns it now. Bill Clinton stayed there often when he was president, and big money-raising parties are held in its opulent rooms and on its terraces and lawns.

L.A. Alive is the name of the biennial bash held at Greenacres, which raises $1 million in an evening for the Performing Arts Center.

The area between Santa Monica Boulevard and Sunset is lovely and reeks of old movie money. The streets all slowly curve as they rise on a gentle slope toward Sunset, each lined with trees on both sides, either shade trees with wide branches that meet overhead or tall, majestic royal palms.

Jean Harlow lived in that area in a Spanish bungalow at 512 North Palm Drive, though she also lived at times in other parts of town. Lana Turner lived at 730 North Bedford Drive when her boyfriend was stabbed by her daughter. George Burns and Gracie Allen lived at 720 Maple Drive when Bob wrote for George. Occasionally they worked in the den instead of at the studio, but arboriculturally-deficient Bob doesn't know if the trees on Maple Drive are maples, or the ones on Elm are elms. Carl Reiner lives in the area now, as does Kirk Douglas.

HISTORIC NOTE

Warren Beatty's film *Bugsy* was based on the life of Bugsy Siegel, the bad-tempered mobster who brought glamour to Las Vegas when he built the Flamingo casino. The house at 810 Linden Drive at Lomitas, a few blocks from Santa Monica Boulevard, was the home of Siegel's girlfriend; this is where he was rubbed out by even more disgruntled mobsters.

Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz lived just above Sunset and just west of the Beverly Hills Hotel at 1000 North Roxbury Drive. Also on Roxbury were Jack Benny and Jimmy Stewart. In the hills back of and above the hotel were Marion Davies at 1700 Lexington Road (where William Randolph Hearst died), Glenn Ford at 911 Oxford Way, and Frank Sinatra at 915 Foothill Road, though his main residence the 20 years before his death was in Palm Springs. Cary Grant lived in the hills a bit to the west at 9966 Beverly Grove Drive. George Hamilton, Stephanie Powers and Jack Palance live in the area now.

World-famous Beverly Hills is a small town, encompassing only 5.7 square miles (14.7 square kilometers).

No one who is anyone lives south of Santa Monica Boulevard. All the celebrities live north of that boundary, and most are north of Sunset. Many film people live even farther south, past Wilshire, actors like Frank Sutton, who was the Sergeant on *Gomer Pyle*, and his wife Toby, where we went to great parties when they lived at 205 Rodeo Drive in the non-chic south of Wilshire flats. It is just that no one whose name goes above the title lives down in those sylvan slums between Wilshire and Olympic.

BROTHERLY LOVE IN THE CITY OF STARS

Coldwater Canyon Drive starts at Sunset Boulevard on the east side of the Beverly Hills Hotel and runs up over the mountains and down into the San Fernando Valley. We ran out of gas one time on Coldwater, fortunately on the long straight stretch where there is a sidewalk and houses side by side. Bob walked up to the door of the nearest one, intending to ask to use the phone. He rang the bell; a curtain twitched but no one came to the door. It was the third house before a frightened voice behind the unopened door said she would call the Auto Club. In case you are ever pregnant and looking for shelter on Christmas Eve, our advice is don't come to Beverly Hills.

Will Rogers was the first honorary mayor of Beverly Hills in 1925.

Bert Lahr built a home in Coldwater Canyon in 1941 and lived in it, then sold it to Betty Grable and Harry James. For the last 10 or 12 years Don Johnson has owned it, first with his wife Melanie Griffith until they divorced. Michael Caine has a house right on Coldwater (there are many little short, dead-end streets that run off it), and Carrie Fisher and Charlton Heston are there.

On the ridge along the top of the Santa Monica Mountains runs Mulholland Drive, with views down over Beverly Hills and all of Los Angeles, or across the San Fernando Valley on the other side, or even, to a few fortunate homes, both ways. This is outside the city limits of Beverly Hills and is part of Sherman Oaks, but the Beverly Hills Post Office brings the mail, so these are BH addresses. Marlon Brando lives up here, and Jack Nicholson a few doors away. Sharon Stone sold her house just off Mulholland when she moved to San Francisco to marry that editor of the *Chronicle* who got the weird idea, at the LA Zoo, of sticking his foot in a Komodo dragon lizard's mouth.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

While Beverly Hills may not actually be "the best-policed six square miles on earth" (the Principality of Monaco probably deserves that title) the wealthy residents of this little village certainly do get unusually good police protection. While the undermanned Los Angeles Police department has a response time of 20-some minutes, Beverly Hills' is less than two minutes.

Actors Matthew Perry (*Friends*) and James Woods have recently sold their Beverly Hills houses. Rosemary Clooney still lives here after 40 or so years. Recent arrivals are pop singer Christina Aguilera; comedian Louie Anderson of *Family Feud*; Eddie Murphy (who knows the area well after making *Beverly Hills Cop*, and who bought a couple of acres to build on); rock star Ozzy Osbourne; Debbie Reynolds, who has moved back from Las Vegas; Sylvester Stallone; Denzel Washington, who left Toluca Lake near Universal and NBC in the Valley to move here; Samuel L. Jackson and his actress wife, LaTanya Richardson, who recently left Encino in the Valley and bought Roseanne's house in the gated and guarded Amestoy Estates; and Diane Keaton, who sold her Beverly Hills home to Madonna. She, in turn, sold her Hollywood Hills home and moved to London, if you are still with us.

Tour buses are allowed to drive Beverly Hills' streets on "Movie Stars Homes" tours, but the buses must weigh less than three tons.

Now that you have seen it, if you are toying with the idea of moving to Beverly Hills, there's a Mediterranean-style house for sale that was built by Lionel Barrymore in 1926, and later became the residence of Marilyn Monroe. As we write this, it's on the market for $2 million. Talk to Barbara Tenenbaum or Lea Porter of Fred Sands Real Estate. And the five-bedroom house where Herman Mankiewicz and Orson Welles wrote much of *Citizen Kane* (the rest was written at a guest ranch where we have stayed near Victorville) is on the market for $2.4 million.

On Location

The house at 614 North Walden Drive (off Wilshire west of its intersection with Santa Monica Boulevard, turn north) was featured in *Beverly Hills Cop II* when Eddie Murphy moved into it. The house where Richard Dreyfuss and Bette Midler lived in *Down and Out in Beverly Hills* is at 802 North Bedford Drive. Bedford is three blocks east of the intersection of Wilshire and Santa Monica. Pictures have been shot at the Beverly Hills Hotel since the early 1900s, and at the Regent Beverly Wilshire (see page 250), where everyone remembers *Pretty Woman*.

Anywhere But Here was filmed all over Beverly Hills, including BH High School. Other films shot here include *Almost Famous*, *15 Minutes*, *Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles*, *Swordfish* and *Legally Blond*e.

A HALLOWEEN TREAT

The **Witch's House**, the name it is known by in Beverly Hills (516 North Walden Drive, at Carmelita Avenue), has Black Forest architecture with steeply pitched roofs and angled panes on its windows. It was built in Culver City many years ago as a film set. Since it was moved to Beverly Hills it has attracted thousands, especially at Halloween, when the owner runs up a large bill for candy.

Best Places to Stay

No wire hangers!

– Faye Dunaway as Joan Crawford, *Mommie Dearest*

The accommodations price scale can be found on page 39.

You will find few motels or flophouses in this tidy little community. Most places are top-notch, and each of the following is definitely a haunt of celebrities.

Hotels

★★ AVALON HOTEL

9400 West Olympic Boulevard
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
☎ 310-277-5221, 800-535-4715, fax 310-277-4928
www.avalon-hotel.com
Moderate-Expensive

This was once a smallish (88 rooms) Beverly Hills hideaway hotel called the Beverly Carlton; Marilyn Monroe lived here for a while. Now it has been completely redone, renamed and restyled back to '50s art deco – and is becoming a Beverly Hills hideaway once more, catering heavily to the movie and fashion crowd. The layout is unusual in that there are three different buildings on three lots; it includes a residential neighborhood, in addition to the hotel, that stretches from Beverly Boulevard to Cañon Drive, so there are the Olympic, Beverly and Cañon buildings.

Avalon's best rooms are those in the Olympic building with balconies overlooking the amoeba-shaped pool.

There is concierge service, in-room massages and aromatherapy facials, and 24-hour room service from **Blue on Blue** restaurant and bar in the lobby. In addition to the buildings are two residential villas on Cañon, available by the month for those planning a longer stay. Each has a large dining room, two bedrooms, a kitchen and office. A posh home away from home, with all the amenities of the hotel, for $9,000.

★★ BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL & BUNGALOWS

9641 Sunset Boulevard
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
☎ 310-276-2251, 800-283-8885, fax 310-887-2887
www.beverlyhillshotel.com
Deluxe

Limousine service within Beverly Hills is complimentary for guests of the Beverly Hills Hotel.

Stars have been drinking here, dining here and staying here ever since there were stars in Hollywood. Harold Lloyd starred in *Tailor-Made Man*, shot at the hotel in 1923, long before *Designing Woman, Move Over Darling* and *California Suite* were filmed here. The hotel was owned, during the 1940s, by Loretta Young, Irene Dunne and Harry Warner. The Polo Lounge was christened that because Will Rogers, Darryl Zanuck and their friends used

Beverly Hills Hotel's bungalow 5 has a private swimming pool, built for businessman Walter Annenberg, who stayed here often.

to drop in after their weekly polo matches. Charlie Chaplin stayed here when he returned from exile to accept a special Oscar.

Howard Hughes came here in 1942 and stayed in bungalow 3 off and on for 40 years. Clark Gable had trysts with Carole Lombard in bungalow 4, in between their weekends at the Hollywood Roosevelt. When Marilyn Monroe and Yves Montand were filming *Let's Make Love*, Monroe and her husband, Arthur Miller, stayed in bungalow 21, while Montand and his wife, Simone Signoret, were in bungalow 20. And Liz Taylor liked the hotel's bungalows so much she honeymooned with six of her husbands in them.

Raquel Welch was discovered by the Beverly Hills Hotel pool, one of the reasons so many aspiring actresses lounge about there now.

What promotes all this loyalty is that the Beverly Hills is a very comfortable hotel. We stayed in a corner room in the wing a few years ago, went down to the pool for dip among the agents and starlets in the afternoon, had a drink at the **Polo Lounge**; it is all very gemütlich. The rooms are large, each has a walk-in closet and an extra touch, a TV in the bathroom. About a third have balconies, fireplaces, terraces or patios.

The 21 bungalows are all different. Each has a living room, dining room and wood-burning fireplace. Some have pianos, Jacuzzis or treadmills for those who want to make music, get wet or work out.

There are tennis courts, lighted at night, and a pool where Katharine Hepburn dove in fully clothed one day after a hot set of tennis. This is where pool manager Svend Petersen taught Faye Dunaway to swim for her role in *Mommie Dearest*. You also see it in *American Gigolo* and the opening of the 1957 film *Designing Woman*. The **Cabana Club Café** is open to the public from 9am-5pm for poolside dining, and a tradition of serving pool guests sorbet at 4pm is still observed.

Service is assured at the Beverly Hills Hotel by the high staff ratio: three per guest.

Oh yes, one other thing we like: there are fresh macaroon cookies on the pillow at night. The hotel is easy to find: it is at the spot where Cañon, Rodeo and Camden all reach Sunset Boulevard.

★ TIP

Beverly Hills' hotel occupancy tax is 14%, plus an additional 1.2% surcharge, which some hotels call by a different name. But a surcharge by any name is still a tax.

★★ FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

300 South Doheny Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90048
☎ 310-273-2222, fax 310-385-4927
www.fourseasons.com
Deluxe

We have been here several times for lunch meetings; although we have never stayed overnight, we are very aware that this is one of those special, large, fine hotels that a city is lucky to have in its midst. On palm-lined Doheny Drive, with lush landscaping outside, and what must be half a marble quarry in the lobby. All rooms and suites have balconies overlooking Beverly Hills and western LA. Amenities include 24-hour room service, overnight shoeshine, packing and unpacking service, an in-house seamstress and one-hour pressing and valet service.

The hotel has an outdoor swimming pool on the fourth floor terrace with panoramic views, and an extensive spa. Complimentary limousine service to nearby Rodeo Drive, and 24-hour concierge. The **Gardens Restaurant** is fairly formal: oil paintings on one side, windows overlooking the gardens on the other, Limoges china on the table linens. The food is California-Pacific, a broad designation that covers a multitude of pleasures. Tea is served in the afternoon, Monday-Saturday, and a lavish Sunday buffet brunch served 10am-2pm, for $49. The café is decidedly more casual, with a more informal menu.

The Four Seasons Hotel offers translation and interpreting services.

Windows Lounge & Bar is a popular place for movie industry people at night. There is a late-night supper for the after-theater crowd, and a pianist, with even more entertainment Friday and Saturday.

LUXE HOTEL RODEO DRIVE
360 North Rodeo Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
☎ 310-273-0300, 800-HOTEL-411
www.luxehotels.com
Moderate-Expensive

Luxe Hotel offers pickup and return from LAX in luxe Towncars.

A stylish boutique hotel (86 rooms) in the middle of Rodeo Drive, that shopaholic's heaven. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in the small, skylighted **Café Rodeo** with its even smaller bar. Full, 24-hour room service for meals en suite, if preferred. Robes and slippers, concierge and valet service.

★★ PENINSULA BEVERLY HILLS
9882 South Santa Monica Boulevard
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
☎ 310-551-2888, 800-462-7899
www.peninsula.com
Deluxe

The oval marble and glass Creative Artists Agency next door to the Peninsula hotel was designed by famed architect I.M. Pei.

Just off Wilshire on Little Santa Monica is the top-of-the-line Peninsula. Well known as the site of power breakfasts (it is next door to Creative Artists Agency), it seems to attract celebrities all day and into the night. There are luxuriously furnished rooms, and some villas and suites have private garden entrances. The hotel has a well-known spa, and a pool with cabanas (even the cabanas have telephones, fax and TV). **The Belvedere** restaurant is quiet, intimate and elegant, with California cuisine. There is a Sunday brunch. The Peninsula offers courtesy chauffeured Rolls Royce service to the neighborhood and Century City.

★★ MERV GRIFFIN'S BEVERLY HILTON
9876 Wilshire Boulevard
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
☎ 310-274-7777, 800-922-5432
www.merv.com
Deluxe

We have never heard anyone actually call this hotel Merv Griffin's Beverly Hilton (although, when you phone the hotel and are put on hold, you can while away the time listening to what sounds like ol' Merv singing). It is the

Beverly Hilton and it has been here at the crossroad of Wilshire and Santa Monica boulevards for almost 50 years. There are so many movie industry meetings and parties and dinners taking place here that, if you stand in the wide corridor to the right of the lobby, by the doors to the International Ballroom, almost any evening between 6 and 8pm you are likely to see some celebrities. The main restaurant is Trader Vic's, with "Polynesian" food and umbrellas hovering over rum drinks. The Beverly Hilton is host every year to the Golden Globe Awards and the Academy Award nominees luncheon.

★★ RAFFLES L'ERMITAGE BEVERLY HILLS

9291 Burton Way
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
☎ 310-278-3344, 800-800-2113, fax 310-278-8247
Preferred Hotels & Resorts, 800-323-7500
www.lermitagehotel.com
Deluxe

Raffles L'Ermitage is situated between the centers of Beverly Hills and West Hollywood, a few minutes from each.

This is one of the best hotels in the entire area. A renovation that cost more than the national debt of some small countries has transformed it into a modern hotel with light blond wood paneling. It has always been a quiet haven for celebrities, located just a few blocks from Beverly Hills Golden Triangle.

The choice in accommodations is fairly simple: standard guest rooms are good-sized as hotel rooms go; deluxe rooms are slightly larger; and grand luxe rooms have a separate sitting area, which makes them suites. Other than these, there are only two really big suites. Each room has a large, low bed, with a telephone on each side (there are five phones in every guest room), a desk, a vanity area separate from the bathroom, a 40-inch-screen television, and CD/DVD player. Ask for a room above the third floor (there are eight stories), as traffic on Burton Way can be noisy.

L'Ermitage has a fitness center on the 8th floor, with weight training, massage and steam rooms.

We especially like the extra touches: personalized business cards and letterheads are on the desk in the room when you arrive. And it is the only hotel we know with 24-hour check-in. If you want to arrive at 8pm, no problem – on the last day of your stay you have until 8pm to check out. Another great idea that no other hotel provides: your

L'Ermitage's 3,000 sq. ft. Presidential Suite, with four balconies and a grand piano, costs $3,800 a night.

room has a cell phone to take with you whenever you go out, so you never miss a call.

The **Living Room**, off the lobby, serves afternoon tea, cocktails and snacks by the fireplace. The **Library Bar** has its own fireplace, a cozy place for a cocktail before dinner or a drink after. The **Executive Center**, on the second floor, is a place for champagne before or drinks after dinner, and cigars in a club-like atmosphere. This is possible because California's no-smoking law was enacted to protect the employees from second-hand smoke. There is presumably no service within the room.

The **Restaurant**, with its dome-shaped ceiling, big chandelier and oversized windows serves breakfast, lunch or dinner; there is also an outside patio with its sycamore trees and fountain. Any of the menus are available 24 hours a day in your room, in the Restaurant, in the Library Bar, the Living Room or wherever you would prefer. Dining by the rooftop pool in the evening, with its 360° view of the city and the mountains, is a nice treat.

★★ REGENT BEVERLY WILSHIRE

9500 Wilshire Boulevard
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
☎ 310-275-5200, 310-274-2851
www.fourseasons.com
Deluxe

The population of Beverly Hills was fewer than 1,000 when the Regent Beverly Wilshire was built.

The hotel was built in 1928 at the intersection of Rodeo Drive and Wilshire Boulevard, on the site of one end of the Beverly Auto Speedway, where residents of Los Angeles came out by steam railroad to see Model T auto races on Sunday afternoons. Beverly Hills High School was built at the other end of the racetrack when the Golden Triangle hadn't been dreamt of. It was a far cry from *Pretty Woman*.

The Beverly Wilshire's two penthouse suites are the most expensive in Los Angeles: $5,000 and $7,500 per night.

The hotel has been a hangout for stars from its early days. Fred Astaire and Cary Grant caroused here. Elvis Presley lived in a suite for a while, Warren Beatty had a rooftop suite for 15 years. Steve McQueen took his motorcycle with him into his suite, and the Beatles trashed their suite while celebrating Ringo's birthday. When Barbara Walters pinched the towels the hotel suggested politely that she had made a mistake, undoubtedly because she and they shared the same initials. Elizabeth Taylor, Richard

Harris, Carol Channing, Robert Mitchum and Drew Barrymore have all stayed here, among many others.

Much of *Pretty Woman* was shot in the Presidential Suite in the Wilshire Wing; *Wag the Dog* used the same suite. *Clueless* and *Father's Day* filmed the exteriors of the hotel. *Color of Night* shot around the pool and driveway, *Indecent Proposal* filmed in suite 975 of the Beverly Wing, and *American Gigolo* used several locations in the hotel. We also see the hotel in *Escape From the Planet of the Apes* (1971) and *Beverly Hills Cop*.

Two weeks before the Academy Awards show, Oscars for technological achievement are awarded in the Beverly Wilshire's ballroom.

The Beverly Wilshire is actually two hotels. The Wilshire wing, built in 1928, which fronts on Wilshire Boulevard, has a classic, traditional feel. Witness the Italian Renaissance façade of white Carrara marble and Tuscany stone. But when you walk through the opulent lobby and across a cobblestone drive lined with gaslight lanterns from a Scottish castle, you enter the much newer Beverly wing. There the décor is contemporary chic, a mixture of silks and wools and pink and gray marble.

DID YOU BRING YOUR PET ALONG?

You will be happy to know that the Beverly Wilshire treats pets like royalty. A veterinarian, pet-sitter, groomer are on call, along with "meow mix" and water in bowls served on linen. If that is not enough, you may have squeeze toys delivered on a silver tray.

Nine categories of rooms vary in size, location and view, but most have good-size bathrooms of Italian tile and marble, with separate shower and deep soaking tub.

The art deco-style **Dining Room**, with Murano glass chandeliers suspended from *trompe l'oeil* ceilings, towering bay windows and oil murals, is an elegant place to try the California-continental dishes. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served here, with a pianist nightly and a jazz duo Saturday nights. The **Lobby Lounge**, with a casual cuisine, is really a neighborhood bistro, it just happens to be in a very sophisticated neighborhood. We like the way it overlooks Rodeo Drive through 15-foot-tall windows. There is a nice three-course dinner until late at night for

The Beverly Wilshire has 120 suites – more than any other hotel in Los Angeles.

Jackets are recommended in the evening in the Beverly Wilshire's Dining Room, but ties are not essential.

$25. Friday and Saturday nights an all-you-can-eat dessert buffet for $10.

Then there is **The Bar**, also off the lobby in the Wilshire wing, where we have probably rubbed elbows with more celebrities over the years than anywhere else in the hotel.

NOT TO FORGET THE KIDS...

The Beverly Wilshire has a special program for overnight guests ages two-12. Start with strollers and cribs available, go on to a stuffed toy animal, a teddy bear T-shirt, coloring book with crayons, teddy bear tearless shampoo, bath soap and bubble bath, and milk and cookies served on a silver tray. The main danger of this "Comforts of Home" program is that your children will want to go on being treated this way when they *are* home.

Best Places to Eat

Almost all of the hotels in Beverly Hills are expensive, most of the shops very expensive, so you are expecting something different from the restaurants?

Fine Dining

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

CHADWICK
267 South Beverly Drive
☎ 310-205-9424
California
Very Expensive

Chadwick, featuring fresh, locally grown vegetables, is owned by chef Ben Ford, son of Harrison Ford. Dinner only, Monday-Saturday, 6-10pm; Sunday, 6-9pm.

DELMONICO'S SEAFOOD GRILLE
9320 West Pico Boulevard
☎ 310-550-7737
Seafood/Steaks
Moderate-Expensive

An old-style New York restaurant, complete with booths, transported to Beverly Hills (actually, it's between Beverly Hills and West Hollywood in a never-land called West LA). No nouveau California menu here, still plenty of rich sauces; mostly seafood, with enough steaks to keep the others happy. Reservations recommended. Open Monday-Friday, 11:30am-10pm; Saturday from 5pm; Sunday from 4pm. Valet parking.

★★ **JAAN**
Raffles L'Ermitage Beverly Hills
9291 Burton Way
☎ 310-385-5307
Asian-French-American
Very Expensive

"Jaan" is Cambodian for dish or bowl.

If you are bored with the thought of another Italian restaurant or are weary of steak houses, you will find that Jaan is definitely different. Their cuisine expresses a fusion of Indochinese, French and American cooking, and the flavors are delicate and subtle. The menu changes often, usually listing one soup, a half-dozen each of salads and entrées, and several desserts. Each meal starts with a complimentary appetizer. Ours, on a recent visit, was of sweet onion, melted feta cheese, and raw ahi tuna. There was a salad of Maine lobster, Belgian endive, watercress and sprouts with a misting of green apple vinaigrette; it was so good that Phyllis ordered a second portion and skipped the entrée. The wild black bass with Manila clams and risotto was delicious, but the bass was served rare, as is much of the fish here. There are meat dishes available, such as roasted lamb loin, as well as vegetarian items.

The room is impressive; there is a small floor area with only about eight tables, but the ceiling is at least two stories high. The table settings are modern and attractive, with comfortable chairs. Huge windows overlook a fountain, and there's a patio that is popular in warm weather.

L'Ermitage attracts show-biz people, which means those in the production or business end, as well as celebrities. Rockers tend to stay at this high-end, decorous hotel, perhaps as a respite from the put-on stage antics. The other night one of us said, "Isn't that what's-her-name?" And the other replied, "No, I think it's, you know, what's-her-name." The trouble is, we are of the wrong generation to remember rock stars' names, and of course the maître d' won't divulge anyone's identity in this expensive hideaway. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner; call for hours. Reservations recommended.

★★ IL CIELO

9018 Burton Way
☎ 310-276-9990
Italian
Expensive

So many weddings are celebrated at Il Cielo it is best to call ahead for reservations to make sure the restaurant will be open to the public.

This is a place for couples. Romance is as big on the menu here as the risotto. Even the lobster-stuffed ravioli is heart-shaped. Though that sounds hokey, it *is* a romantic place; it looks like a Tuscan cottage with a wrought-iron gate, a patio and garden, and two dining rooms, complete with fireplaces. Lesley Ann Warren and advertising executive Ron Taft had their first date, and then were married, here. Shirley Jones and Marty Ingels, after separating, came here when they reunited.

Though owner Pasquale Vericella was born in Sorrento much of the food is Northern Italian, fairly light and contemporary. There is a six-course tasting menu for two. Il Cielo is open Monday-Saturday, with lunch from 11:30am-3pm, and dinner from 5:30-10pm. It is located between Doheny Drive and Robertson Boulevard. Incidentally, *cielo* (the sky) is pronounced "chee-EL-o."

★★ NIC'S

453 North Cañon Drive
☎ 310-550-5707
American-continental
Expensive

The dinner menu (Nic's is only open for dinner) does not overwhelm with its size, but what is here offers a nice range of appetizers and salads, and then entrées. The

chef's continental training shows up with the way each dish is finished off: the crusted swordfish with basil and capers, the prime rib of pork with maple soy glaze. If you are dining a bit on the late side you will be right on hand for the popular Nic's Martini Lounge club for an after-dinner drink. (See Martini Lounge, page 276.)

It is just up the street from the Cañon Theatre; parking is available in a nearby lot or with valet service. Dinner on weekdays is served 6-10pm, on weekends to 11pm.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The beach restaurant Gladstone's 4 Fish lists its address as Malibu, but it is actually in Pacific Palisades. A number of places have Bel-Air in their names even though they are nowhere near Bel-Air. As the Beverly Hills border runs downs Doheny Drive and the Four Seasons Hotel is on the east or Los Angeles side of the street, the hotel lists its address as "Los Angeles at Beverly Hills." We applaud truth in advertising.

★★ THE POLO LOUNGE

Beverly Hills Hotel & Bungalows
9641 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-276-2251
Oak-grilled food with an Asian flair
Very Expensive

Celebrities have been coming here ever since the hotel was opened, not long after Hollywood was opened. The hotel has changed owners several times, with a long gap when it was closed for extensive renovations a few years ago, during which time quite a few people who formerly took power meetings here got used to wining and dining elsewhere. But a number are coming back. You'll usually see more celebrities at breakfast and lunch, combining a meal with a meeting, than at dinner.

Humphrey Bogart used to hang out here, as did Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis and the others of that pack. Marlene Dietrich was supposed to have broken the code that ladies couldn't wear pants into the Polo Lounge in the 1940s. If

so, it didn't take. The maître d' handed Phyllis a skirt to put on over her slacks when we were there to meet our agent in the '70s. That ritual has been done away with, although jackets are still "suggested" after 7pm.

The Polo Lounge is a favored lunch spot for the ladies of Beverly Hills, as well as with movie people making deals. Sunday brunch has mariachi music accompaniment. The Polo Lounge is a favorite of ours for dinner. We like sitting out in the patio, under a tree, with piano music in the background. Open daily, 7am-1:45am.

★ TIP

Although dinner is served at the Polo Lounge only until 11pm, a limited menu is available after that, with pizza, omelets, pasta and sandwiches. And, though they don't advertise it, the kitchen staff will make anything you care to order until the bar closes at 1:30am.

★★ SPAGO BEVERLY HILLS

176 North Cañon Drive
☎ 310-385-0880
California-French-Austrian
Very Expensive

Spago's owner-chef Wolfgang Puck first became known as chef at the now-closed restaurant Ma Maison, which had an unlisted phone number.

When Wolfgang Puck closed his Spago Restaurant just above Sunset Boulevard in West Hollywood, where items like nouvelle pizza made him the most famous chef in the country, it was to open Spago Beverly Hills. Whereas the original place was open and casual, this one is intimate and much more obviously about power and money. After all, this is Beverly Hills.

The main room has much glass art, with panels, patio doors and skylights, ceramic art and a couple dozen paintings, including Hockneys, Miró lithos and Picasso sketches. The outdoor patio, which many prefer, is built around a few hundred-year-old olive trees (these are not native trees; they were planted, according to one story, by

missionaries in Sylmar in the San Fernando Valley, and saved from being bulldozed), and a fountain.

It is hopeless to name the celebrities who come here, as the list would be too long. Someone mentioned seeing Maria Shriver, Arnold Schwarzenegger and producer Al Ruddy dining here. But one pair of diners intrigues us most of all: Jim Carrey and Henry Kissinger. Together.

The menu changes daily; dishes are derived from Puck's classic French training, with California cuisine's insistence on fresh, never-overcooked vegetables. They include lots of pastas and seafood as well; if you are a steak-and-potatoes person, go to Palm or Pacific Dining Car. Dinner is served every day from 5:30pm to 9:30 or 10:30, depending on the reservations. Lunch Monday-Friday, 11:30am-2:15pm; Saturday, noon-2:15pm. Valet parking.

Wolfgang Puck also owns Chinois on Main in Santa Monica, and Granita in Malibu.

★ TIP

Get the *Beverly Hills Visitors' Guide*, containing a wealth of information, from the Beverly Hills Visitors Bureau, 239 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212, ☎ 310-248-1015, or 800-345-2210.

Casual Dining

★★ BARNEY GREENGRASS
9570 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-777-5877
Moderate-Expensive

This is a branch of the New York deli, from whence the smoked sturgeon and salmon is flown in. It's on the top floor of Barney's New York, and is definitely fancier than the original, with a caviar-vodka bar and a terrace, from which to view the hills of Beverly while munching imported (also from New York) bagels. Open 8:30am-6pm daily; Saturday to 7pm.

At Barney Greengrass you get New York-style seltzer for 2¢ a glass, with free refills.

MULBERRY STREET PIZZA
347 North Cañon Drive
☎ 310-247-8998
Pizza
Inexpensive

Actors James Caan and Cathy Moriarty, homesick for the kind of pizza they used to get in New York, opened Mulberry Street. The décor features lots of signed movie posters on the walls. Mulberry Street serves all the basic types of pizza but with a thin New York-style crust. They also offer a few meaty Italian sandwiches, though we have never got the knack of eating a sandwich with three big meatballs without losing at least one to gravity. Open daily, 11am-10pm.

★★ **NATE 'N AL'S**
414 North Beverly Drive
☎ 310-274-0101
Deli
Inexpensive

Nate 'n Al's is a half-block south of Little Santa Monica Boulevard.

As long as we can remember this has been the Beverly Hills place for celebrity schmoozing, especially for comics and comedy writers. Groucho Marx used to come in here, and Milton Berle. You might see Rodney Dangerfield or Carl Reiner. Definitely Larry King. Very big as a power breakfast spot for film people.

On top of that, the food is good deli fare, with everything from noodle pudding to cold beet borscht. And they make over 70 kinds of sandwiches. Open daily, 7am-9pm.

Afternoon Tea

When high tea is mentioned, one always thinks of Britain and Jane Austen (well, *we* do), but tea's popularity as a beverage really began in China, 4,000 years or so ago. According to legend, the process of brewing tea was discovered by accident when a leafy branch fell into a pot of hot water, which the farmer's daughter, a virgin (this is possibly the movie version of the story), tasted and cried out, "Eureka!," or the Chinese translation thereof. Tea got to Europe by way of Portuguese merchants in the 16th cen-

tury and spread to America with the colonists. Now it has spread to Beverly Hills.

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL
300 South Doheny Drive (at Burton Way)
☎ 310-273-2222

The Four Seasons serves a formal tea, with meticulous service and all the goodies that go along with the choicest blends. Tea is served in the impressive Gardens Restaurant, Monday-Saturday, 3-4:30pm. The price is $24; with champagne it is $27.

RAFFLES L'ERMITAGE
9291 Burton Way
☎ 310-385-5344

Tea at L'Ermitage starts with champagne and continues with a three-course service that includes delicious finger sandwiches, scones with Devonshire cream and homemade jams, and finally sweets, each course accompanied by the appropriate teas. The presentation has Asian touches, courtesy of Raffles' origins in Singapore. The price is $30.

REGENT BEVERLY WILSHIRE
Lobby Lounge
9500 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-275-5200

The Beverly Wilshire serves a traditional tea with finger sandwiches, toasted teacakes and scones with Devonshire cream and fruit preserves, then follows up with French pastries and chocolate-dipped strawberries. Tea is served in the Lobby Lounge, with sofas and plush chairs and a piano playing in the background. From 3-5pm, $21; $25 with sparkling wine or sherry.

Tea selections range from Earl Grey to China Rose or Jasmine Blossoms at the Regent Beverly Wilshire.

Shop Till You Drop

I always say a kiss on the hand might feel very good, but a diamond tiara lasts forever.
– Marilyn Monroe, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*

We recognize that some people come to Los Angeles not to see the stars of Hollywood but to spend their entire time shopping in Beverly Hills. But that too fits right in with the purposes of this book; Beverly Hills is the place you are most likely to serendipitously do one while expensively accomplishing the other.

Beverly Hills has several distinct shopping areas. The best way to do each of them is to walk, window-shop, go in and browse. Fortunately, each area is compact and easy to cover at a leisurely saunter. Following the districts, we will point out a few specialty places where celebrities shop that you might otherwise miss.

★ TIP

If you ask someone "Where's RO-dee-oh Drive?" they will look at you as if you are speaking another language. Pronounce it the Spanish way, Ro-DAY-oh, to make yourself understood.

The Golden Triangle

There are only 16 blocks within the Golden Triangle; it can be walked in stages, between stops in cafés.

Most of the upscale shops are concentrated here, between Wilshire Boulevard and Little Santa Monica, which cross at a point; the base of the triangle is Cañon Drive. Only six short streets bisect the area at a northwest-southeast angle, and only three that run parallel to Little Santa Monica cross those. It is possible to walk the whole area, and interesting upscale stores are on every street, along with a scattering of cafés, some with sidewalk tables, for occasional relaxation.

★★ Rodeo Drive

Within the triangle is a street that, though only three blocks long, is famous around the world because of the stores found here. If you are interested in shopping it is worth spending an hour or so walking up one side and down the other. Here are some of the places to look for,

listed in order by their address, starting from Wilshire. All phone numbers have a 310 area code.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

2 Rodeo, which begins at Rodeo Drive and Wilshire Boulevard, is the first new street in Beverly Hills since its incorporation in 1914.

Not all the shops in the Golden Triangle sell clothing; there are 24 bakeries, coffee houses and specialty gourmet shops here.

- **Tiffany & Co.**, 210 Rodeo, ☎ 273-8880.
- **Cartier**, 220 Rodeo, ☎ 275-5155.
- **Christian Dior**, 230 Rodeo, ☎ 859-4700, women's clothing.
- **Valentino**, 240-250 Rodeo, ☎ 247-9691, women's apparel.
- **Van Cleef & Arpels**, 300 Rodeo, ☎ 276-1161, jewelry.
- **Battaglia Shop**, 306 Rodeo, ☎ 276-7184, men's clothing and accessories.
- **Cartier**, 370 Rodeo, ☎ 275-4272; this branch is larger and carries the company's high-end jewelry.
- **Chanel**, 400 Rodeo Drive, ☎ 278-4700, fragrance, women's ready-to-wear.
- **Lladró**, 408 Rodeo, ☎ 385-0683, porcelain figurines from Spain.
- **Hermès of Paris**, 434 Rodeo, ☎ 278-6440, leather goods, men's and women's apparel.
- **Giorgio Armani**, 436 Rodeo, ☎ 271-5555, men's and women's apparel.
- **Polo Ralph Lauren**, 444 Rodeo, ☎ 281-1500, apparel for men, women.
- **Tommy Hilfiger**, 468 Rodeo, ☎ 888-0132, men's and women's apparel.
- **Alfred Dunhill of London**, 465 Rodeo, ☎ 274-5351, cigars and gifts.
- **Lacoste**, 447 Rodeo, ☎ 385-0655, clothing for men, women and children.

Dior and Armani gowns are seen every year at the Academy Awards ceremony.

Amphora Arts and Antiques, 308 Rodeo Drive, has Oscars – or entire estates – for sale.

◆ **Gucci**, 347 Rodeo, ☎ 278-3451, men's and women's apparel.

◆ **Lalique**, 317 Rodeo, ☎ 271-7892, fine crystal.

◆ **Louis Vuitton**, 295 Rodeo, ☎ 859-0457, luggage, shoes for men and women.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The common perception that salesclerks in Beverly Hills stores are rude and snooty is called "*Pretty Woman* Syndrome," referring to Julia Roberts' experience in the movie of that name. The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce holds customer service workshops for shop owners and clerks to make sure that does not happen.

Wilshire Boulevard

There are restaurants inside each of the three big department stores on Wilshire Boulevard.

If larger stores are more to your taste, hie thee to the south side of Wilshire Boulevard where the department stores are lined up. Don't let their lack of expensive intimacy put you off, it doesn't deter the celebs who shop here. Start in the block west of the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

★★ BARNEYS NEW YORK

9570 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-276-4400, 310-277-5742
www.barneys.com

Barneys is known for hot, up-to-the-minute designers, plus a full range of well-known labels. And you'll enjoy the New York deli, Barney Greengrass, on the top floor. (See Barneys maternity line on page 267.) The store is open Monday-Saturday, 10am-7pm; Thursday to 8pm.

★★ SAKS FIFTH AVENUE

East Building, 9600 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-275-4211
West Building, 9634 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-275-4211

Saks nurtures new designers, and continues to offer classics like Pamela Dennis' collections (see Neiman Marcus). Saks brought its East Coast reputation for service to Beverly Hills. They have two buildings on Wilshire. The east building, at the corner of Peck, has women's clothes; the west building, at the corner of Bedford, is primarily men's, with a floor for ladies' petite sizes and one for womens' large sizes. Open Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 10am-6pm; Thursday, 10am-8:30pm; Saturday, 10am-7pm; and Sunday, noon-6pm.

★★ NEIMAN MARCUS

9700 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-550-5900, 310-975-4335
www.neimanmarcus.com

At Neiman's you'll find top-end as well as popular designer labels, a shoe department with a wide selection, and men's and children's apparel as well as women's. Look for Pamela Dennis' gowns here (she has dressed stars like Ellen DeGeneres, Anne Heche, Helen Hunt, Meg Ryan and Kate Winslet for the various award shows in her $3,000-$4,000 creations). The store also carries the Pamela Dennis Collection at the $1,000 level.

★ WHO GOES THERE?

Celebrities like bargains as much as the rest of us. Check out Neiman Marcus' 70% Off! sale held in July. Last year one of the bargain hunters was Nancy Reagan, with two discreet Secret Service agents in tow.

★ TIP

The gentleman decked out in a red-and-black frock coat, top hat, black tie and white gloves, greeting shoppers under the clock at the corner of Rodeo Drive, Via Rodeo Drive and Wilshire Boulevard, is Gregg Donovan. He greets people in their own language (Gregg can say hello in 30 languages) as they enter the piazza of 2 Rodeo. For tourists asking where the stars are, he has pointed out such fellow shoppers as Warren Beatty, Dennis Hopper, Anthony Hopkins, and Sharon Stone.

Specialty Stores & Services

There are some stores that, though not on Rodeo Drive, are in the area and should not be missed if you are serious about shopping where celebs shop.

Latin American Masters gallery, 264 North Beverly Drive, specializes in art from Latin America.

Books

RIZZOLI BOOKSTORE
9501 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-278-2247

The store hosts poetry and prose readings, book signings and musical performances. Open daily, 10am-6pm; Thursday and Saturday to 7pm; Sunday, 11am-6pm. Rizzoli is across the street from the Beverly Wilshire.

STORYOPOLIS
116 North Robertson Boulevard
☎ 310-358-2500

This shop specializes in children's books; they also have a great collection of greeting cards inspired by classic children's stories. Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm.

Bridal

★★ **RENEE STRAUSS**
8692 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-657-1700

Raquel Welch, Victoria Principal and Roseanne all shopped here for their wedding finery. Gowns from Renée Strauss have appeared on *ER, Beverly Hills 90210* and *Melrose Place*.

If you are shopping for the perfect wedding dress, you may also wish to look into **Bridal Images**, 9740 Wilshire Boulevard, ☎ 310-274-4090; and **Brides International**, 275 La Cienega Boulevard, ☎ 310-652-8447.

Clothing

★★ **LILY ET CIE**
9044 Burton Way
☎ 310-274-5757

Rita Watnick has had an obsession with clothes for most of her life, which has resulted in her amassing one of the largest collections of high-quality clothing in the country. The vast, open main space of the building is filled with racks of Diors and Valentinos, with Galanos gowns and Oleg Cassini designs. Demi Moore wore a navy jersey Norell at the Emmys and Renee Zellweger a Jean Desses at the Oscars – both came from here. Every year at the awards shows stars are wearing dresses from Lily et Cie.

It is possible to find a dress or sweater for $100 or less, but most prices are higher, into the thousands. Open Monday-Friday, 10am-6pm; Saturday, 11am-4pm. Park on street, or try for a space behind the store (turn into the alley off Weatherly, go to the end).

★★ **LISA KLINE**
136 South Robertson
☎ 310-246-0907

Call this a youthful boutique. Shop here for T-shirts, pajamas, halter tops, wrap skirts and the like. Julia Roberts, Courteney Cox, Jennifer Aniston and Drew Barrymore

have. Open Monday-Saturday, 11am-7pm; Sunday, noon-5pm. This is just outside Beverly Hills in a little intrusive bit of Los Angeles, between Beverly Boulevard and Third Street. Parking lot is across the street, as is Lisa Kline's Men's Store at 123 Robertson.

★★ **CARROLL & COMPANY**
425 North Cañon Drive
☎ 310-273-9060

This has been a favorite of many gentlemen in show biz for many years. Cary Grant had a suit tailor-made for him here. After the third fitting, when the tailors were proud they had finished and done perfect work, he said, "Well, fellows, I think we're starting to get there." Most men, the tailors are happy to tell you, are easier to please. Of course, most men don't look like Cary Grant. Now they sell their goods off-the-rack, and they are friendly folk. Open Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm.

Maternity Wear

When Lucille Ball was expecting during *I Love Lucy* you couldn't even say the word "pregnant" on TV. But ever since Demi Moore's 1991 nude magazine cover, stars have made it fashionable to be fashionably enceinte. There are a few places in Beverly Hills they can go to achieve that status.

★★ **A PEA IN THE POD**
352 North Beverly Drive
☎ 310-273-3522
www.apeainthepod.com

This company is nationally known for maternity versions of styles from upscale lines, including ABS, Nicole Miller, Bisou Bisou and Robin Piccone. Here you can find the black leather pants like Marlee Matlin bought, the snakeskin pants that Melina Kanakaredes (*Providence)* wore to a premiere, or a stretch-mesh Vivienne Tam dress. Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, noon-5pm.

★★ **BARNEYS NEW YORK**
9570 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-276-4400
www.barneys.com

Barneys carries the Procreation line, plus designer labels L'Atessa and Mamma Luna, with capri pants, slit slim skirts, stretch cashmere sweaters and raw silk drawstring pants. The maternity department is on the third floor.

Gourmet Foods

BEVERLY HILLS CAVIARTERIA
158 South Beverly Drive
☎ 310-285-9773
www.caviarteria.com

Well stocked in these difficult times for roe lovers, with the Caspian Sea polluted and pirated, so every variety is not always available. But there is probably more here in this small shop than anywhere else. Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-5:30pm.

THE CHEESE STORE OF BEVERLY HILLS
419 North Beverly Drive
☎ 310-278-2855

For cheese-lovers, this is like reaching paradise. You have never seen such cheeses. They are also strong in the olives department, with imported varieties that are hard to find in the US, and offer a good selection of caviar and wine. Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm.

★★ **EDELWEISS CHOCOLATES**
444 North Cañon Drive
☎ 310-275-0341, 888-615-8800

Maple creams from Edelweiss were Frank Sinatra's favorites, though there are more than 60 other types for celebrities and the rest of us to choose from. By the pound, $24. Open Monday-Friday, 10am-6pm; Saturday to 5:30pm.

Farmers' Market

This market is on North Cañon Drive, in the 200 block between Clifton and Dayton ways. There are over 45 vendors offering breads, fresh seasonal produce, juices, flowers and prepared foods. A good place to shop for celebrities. For *The Young and the Restless* fans, Lauralee Bell is a regular. Sundays, 9am-1pm.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

While only 32,000 people live in Beverly Hills, over 200,000 work here.

Jewelry

So you are in Beverly Hills on vacation and you met a well-dressed, friendly man who seemed sincere and liked you so much he let you in on a fabulous deal. Now you have no money and need cash to get home, so...

★★ **SOUTH BEVERLY WILSHIRE JEWELRY & LOAN**
157 South Beverly Drive, a block south of Wilshire
☎ 310-888-1818

There is one defining word missing in the name. This is, after all, a pawn shop. But why would the filthy-rich people of Beverly Hills need a pawn shop? As Susan Emerling said, writing about the subject in the *LA Times*, "Being wealthy doesn't come cheap." This is a town where conspicuous displays of wealth are considered compulsory. If you don't have a new Mercedes and a mansion in the hills, who would do business with you? So if you are famous and have an Oscar but suddenly need cash – discreetly – you come to see Yossi Dina. Yossi, of course, won't reveal who brought in the original Tiffany lamp, Ming jade vase or fully restored classic Harley-Davidson. Most of his loans are made on jewelry (such as engagement rings); George Hamilton comes here to buy for his collection of antique watches. Monday-Saturday, 10am-5:30pm.

The Hands On nail salon, 243 South Beverly Drive, ☎ 310-860-1037, is owned by Michael Wolper, son of producer David Wolper.

★★ **MELANIE BERG & CO.**
9363 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-278-4248

Pearls should be restrung once a year, especially if there is play between the pearls, or if the thread looks yellowish or frayed. A standard preppy choker costs about $100 to restring. Magdalena (her professional name), following in the footsteps of her mother, Melanie, has restrung pearls for Jacqueline Bisset, Judith Krantz, Ed McMahon, Helen Reddy, Don Rickles and many other celebrities. Magdalena restrung the pearls that Joe DiMaggio gave to Marilyn Monroe on their honeymoon (but years later, when Susan Strasberg had them). Look for a rather plain building on Wilshire; the shop is on the second floor, suite 202. Call for an appointment.

Shoes

★★ **TOD'S**
333 Rodeo Drive
☎ 310-285-0591

Tod's (sometimes listed as JP Tod's) D-bag, a boxy leather tote, was carried by Princess Diana, who had a tan version. Hilary Clinton has one. The evening shoes and bags always get a lot of red carpet time at the awards shows. This large new store has cut down on opportunities for celebrity-watching with the creation of VIP room for stars who wish to shop in private. Unless you are a VIP, too, of course. Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, noon-5pm.

Reweaving & Shoe Repair

★★ **TOSHI'S INVISIBLE REWEAVING**
427 North Cañon Drive
☎ 310-274-3468

There's a cigarette hole in your blazer? Moths munched on a favorite cashmere sweater? Toshi Ichihara put the word 'invisible' in the name of the shop because her repairs really are. Generations of stars, from Jack Benny to Kevin Costner, have thought so, too. Call for an appointment.

★★ **ARTURO'S SHOE FIXX**
9643 Little Santa Monica
☎ 310-278-9585

Do you need shoes or a bag dyed, altered or completely rebuilt? Kim Basinger needed shoes dyed to match the dress she wore to accept her Oscar; likewise Kim Cattrall for the Golden Globes, and Laura Bush just before the presidential inauguration. Arturo's hole-in-the-wall shop is where they come to get it done (though perhaps the first lady wasn't in here herself pleading with him to get her order back right away). Stand-up comedian Rosee Brumfeld was in to get her thigh-high suede boots tightened. Open Monday-Saturday, 8am-6pm. Between Camden and Bedford drives, on the north side.

Sporting Goods

BOBBY JONES GOLF
310 North Beverly Drive
☎ 310-860-9566

This shop is well known for sports apparel as well as golfing stuff. Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm.

Wines & Spirits

Find your favorite beverages at **Beverly Hills Liquor Castle**, 212 South Beverly Drive, ☎ 310-273-6000; **Cañon Liquor & Café/"**, 350 North Cañon Drive, ☎ 310-246-9463; **Vendome**, 9153 Olympic Boulevard, ☎ 310-276-9463; and **The Wine Merchant**, 9467 Little Santa Monica Boulevard, ☎ 310-278-7322.

Sunup to Sundown

Film History

ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES
8949 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-247-3000

Phone the Academy for information on screenings open to the public.

This building houses a theater and the offices of the Academy. The galleries in the lobby and upstairs have exhibits that change every few months and are open to the public Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm; Saturday and Sunday, noon-6pm. It is great seeing films here as they should be seen – not in a living room-size box in a multiplex, but in a big, really comfortable theater with a huge screen and wonderful sound – the way all cinemas used to be. Most screenings are for Academy members only, but special showings are occasionally open to the public. Announcements are made in the *Calendar* section of the *LA Times*.

MARGARET HERRICK LIBRARY, ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES
333 South La Cienega Boulevard
☎ 310-247-3020

The Academy film archive is one of the largest repositories of motion pictures in the US.

Beverly Hills always has done things in style. The city long ago built its striking water purification plant in a Spanish-Romanesque style. When it was abandoned the Academy took it over and used the old storage tanks as film vaults. The building is now a unique library housing one of the most complete collections of film-related material ever assembled. It includes books, pamphlets, periodicals, still photos, scripts, press clippings, personal and business correspondence, production memoranda, sketches, sheet music, music scores and scrapbooks.

It is all for research, nothing can be checked out, but if you want to look up arcane details on a favorite actor or film, this is the place. Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10am-5:30pm. Parking is next door, under tennis courts; first two hours free, then 50¢ per hour.

IT'S A GREAT LIFE

The real **Beverly Hills High School** is not the one that was shown in *Beverly Hills 90210* (those scenes were shot at much less affluent Torrance High, some miles to the south). Some parents cheat, lie and scrounge to get their kids enrolled in Beverly Hills High, such as falsely using the address of a relative or friend who lives in the district. Academic standards are high (just think what Monica Lewinsky learned when she attended), but according to friends whose kids have gone here, it can be tough on a less-than-rich student.

For years the school had its own producing oil wells on the grounds, which brought in extra bucks that were invested in lavish facilities. For instance, the gymnasium floor recedes and reveals a swimming pool that we see every holiday season when *It's a Wonderful Life* plays on TV again. Lots of stars went to school here: Richard Chamberlain, Richard Dreyfuss, Carrie Fisher and Rob Riener for instance.

It is at 244 South Lasky Drive, in the little triangle of streets east of Little Santa Monica between Wilshire and Moreno. Or if you are on Olympic going west toward Century City, you see it to your right at Spalding.

★ **CINEMA ARTS GALLERY**
179 South Beverly Drive
☎ 310-246-9333

Showings like a Clark Gable exhibition, with pictures of Gable from all stages of his life, are frequent. Call to see what is on.

GREYSTONE PARK & MANSION
905 Loma Vista Drive
☎ 310-550-4654

Many movies have been filmed at this gorgeously impressive mansion, including *All of Me*, *The Beautician and the Beast*, *The Bodyguard*, *Death Becomes Her*, *The Fabulous Baker Boys*, *Guilty by Suspicion*, *Indecent Proposal*, *The Marrying Man*, *Nixon* and *The Witches of Eastwick*.

A nicely *noir* story goes with Greystone. Edward Doheny, the very rich oil man who was involved in the Teapot Dome scandal, built the 55-room mansion in 1927 for his son and daughter-in-law, a couple who apparently needed a lot of room. But shortly after they moved in the son was shot to death in his bedroom by his male secretary. Rumors flew about a lover's quarrel, but since the secretary also killed himself we will never know.

The 23 acres of grounds are beautiful, with views of Beverly Hills and beyond. From Sunset Boulevard between Doheny and the Beverly Hills Hotel, turn north on Mountain Road to the first block, Loma Vista Drive, then right to Doheny Road. At the closed double wrought-iron gates there is a gate house where you can get a brochure that tells the whole story. Or drive up to the parking lot (parking is free) and get a brochure from a Park Ranger.

The mansion is closed to the public, though the city rents it out for opulent weddings and immense parties. The park is open daily; in summer, 10am-6pm; in winter, to 5pm.

MUSEUM OF TELEVISION & RADIO
465 North Beverly Drive
☎ 310-786-1000

The museum hosts screenings and presents radio broadcasts, and has collections of films and television episodes. Open Wednesday-Sunday, noon-5pm; Thursday, noon-9pm.

There is no admission charge at the Museum of Television and Radio, but donations are requested.

Tours

Walking Tours

THE AMBASSADEARS
These professionally trained, multilingual guides are the Beverly Hills Visitors Bureau's official docents (they are really much better than that embarrassing name). They are available to give walking tours to leisure travelers, business travelers and journalists interested in learning more about Beverly Hills. The tour is $80, with a four-hour maximum time limit. Phone ☎ 310-248-1015.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The **Church of the Good Shepherd**, 505 North Bedford Drive (north of Wilshire and Santa Monica boulevards), is where Elizabeth Taylor and Nicky Hilton, her first husband, were married in 1950. The funerals of Jimmy Durante, Alfred Hitchcock and Gary Cooper were held here. The exterior has been seen in many movies.

CIVIC CENTER PUBLIC ART WALKING TOUR
Art-loving Beverly Hills has large-scale works by Charles Moore, Claes Oldenburg, Auguste Rodin and others, and is acquiring more. For a close-up look join a docent-led tour, usually held on the first Saturday of each month; tours are available from May-September, 1-2pm. Meet at the door of City Hall, 450 North Crescent Drive, on the west side of the building. Free. Phone beforehand in case of schedule changes, ☎ 310-288-2201.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The **Writers & Artists Building**, 9507 Santa Monica Boulevard at Beverly Drive, is where creative types have had offices since the early 1920s. Charlie Chaplin, Eddie Cantor, Ray Bradbury, Jack Nicholson and Billy Wilder have labored here. The building is still a hive of activity for the talented.

Trolley Tours

Beverly Hills Trolley Tours cover Beverly Hills at a nice pace and in comfort as a docent, steeped in local history, gives the lowdown on everything. There are two separate tours; both run May-December, Saturday only. The Art and Architecture Tour departs at 11am; it is 50 minutes long. The Sights and Scenes Tour departs on the hour from noon-4pm; it is 40 minutes long. All tours depart from the corner of Rodeo Drive and Dayton Way; the cost for adults is $5; for children 12 and under, $1. Phone ☎ 310-285-2438. There is no tour if it rains.

Seats are not reserved on Trolley Tours. Arrive a bit early for a good spot.

Recreation

Tennis

La Cienega Tennis Center, 325 South La Cienega Boulevard, ☎ 310-550-4765. Call for hours and fees.

Roxbury Park, 471 Roxbury Drive, Tennis Club House, ☎ 310-550-4979. Call for hours and fees.

La Cienega Tennis Center is next door to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences Library.

After Dark

Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, she walks into mine.

– Humphrey Bogart, *Casablanca*

Beverly Hills' club scene is not nearly as frenetic as Hollywood's or West Hollywood's, but there are a few clubs worth mentioning.

Clubs

★★ **BACKSTAGE CAFE**
9433 Brighton Way
☎ 310-777-0252
www.backstagecafe.com

Top musicians, such as Herbie Hancock, Sting, and Dr. Dre, show up here sometimes to jam on their off nights; they are occasionally joined by Tom Hanks. Tuesday is a good night for music. The food is a mélange of California cuisine with French, Italian and Middle Eastern touches. Sunday is barbeque night, with a picnic-style menu starting at 7pm. Open 11am-2am. No cover.

★★ **THE MARTINI LOUNGE**
453 North Cañon Drive
☎ 310-550-5707

The Martini Lounge has a pianist Thursday nights, and Friday-Saturday a band playing R&B, jazz and blues. You mostly see the young, hip celebrities in here, where they blend in with the generally young, hip crowd. There is also a dining room, with good food (see Nic's, page 254).

Theaters

CAÑON THEATRE
205 North Cañon Drive
☎ 310-859-8001

The Cañon is a mid-size house, with around 400 seats; they have an erratic schedule presenting new plays and smaller imports from Broadway; shows usually run for about a month.

WILSHIRE THEATRE
8440 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 213-468-1700

A large house, with around 1,200 seats, this theater is used only occasionally for national touring companies of large musicals when the Nederlander organization's other big house, the Pantages, has a long-running booking.

Beverly Hills A to Z

Counseling

All phone numbers in Beverly Hills have a 310 area code.

Alcohol & Drug Abuse Helpline . . . . ☎ 800-ALCOHOL
Alcoholics Anonymous . . . . . ☎ 310-644-1139
Be Sober Hotline . . . . . ☎ 800-237-6237
Los Angeles Free Clinic . . . . . ☎ 213-653-8662
Nineline (counseling for teens) . . . . . ☎ 800-999-9999

Currency Exchange

Associated Foreign Exchange, 443 North Beverly Drive, ☎ 310-274-7610.

Bermuda Financial Inc., 9025 Wilshire Boulevard, 310-385-0725.

Thomas Cook Currency Service, 421 North Rodeo Drive, ☎ 310-274-9177.

Hospitals

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, 8700 Beverly Drive, LA, ☎ 310-855-5000, 310-423-3277, www.csmc.edu.

Century City Hospital, 2080 Century Park East, Century City, ☎ 310-558-6211.

UCLA Medical Center, 10833 Le Conte Avenue, Westwood, ☎ 310-825-9111.

Library

Beverly Hills Library, 444 North Roxford Drive, ☎ 310-288-2220.

Locksmiths

Academy Locksmith . . . . . ☎ 310-450-9444
A-Al's Lock & Key Service. . . . . ☎ 310-672-7988
Metro Locksmith . . . . . ☎ 310-441-2755
Oakley Lock & Key. . . . . ☎ 310-474-4704

Police & Fire

Emergency. . . . . ☎ 911
Police Department. . . . . ☎ 310-550-4951
Fire Department . . . . . ☎ 310-281-2701

Post Office

Beverly Hills: 325 North Maple Drive, 90210, ☎ 310-247-3470.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The Beverly Hills Post Office is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Time & Weather

Time . . . . . ☎ 853-1212
Weather . . . . . ☎ 213-554-1212

Translation Services

Beverly Hills International School, PO Box 6188, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, ☎ 310-557-1711.

Beverly Hills Lingual Institute, 9601 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite GL-4, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, ☎ 310-858-0717.

Visitor Information

Beverly Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau, 239 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, 90212, ☎ 310-248-1015, 800-345-2210, www.bhvb.org.

Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, 239 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, 90212, ☎ 310-248-1000, 8:30am-5pm. www.beverlyhillscc.org.

The Glamour Communities

I never knew it could be like this.

– Deborah Kerr to Burt Lancaster,
From Here to Eternity

The Santa Monica Mountains run to the coast, and **Sunset Boulevard**, which begins in downtown Los Angeles, curves its way west along the foothills all the way to the beach. A lineup of star-studded communities stays close to the boulevard on both sides. Above Sunset these communities occupy the canyons back up into the hills; only in Brentwood, where Wilshire Boulevard intersects with San Vicente, does the glamour reach the flatlands. Hills are classy, flatlands are déclassé.

From Beverly Hills, going west, are **Bel-Air**, **Brentwood** (with Mandeville Canyon and the Cliff May Estates), and finally **Pacific Palisades**.

Bel-Air

Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore!"

– Dorothy (Judy Garland), *The Wizard of Oz*

Bel-Air is poshest of the posh. Areas like Brentwood and Pacific Palisades, which most of us would consider idyllic, are positively bourgeois in comparison. Bel-Air is where you can be a hip star, with a screen image as a common-as-dirt man or woman of the people, and at the same time live like a preciously cocooned member of royalty, surrounded only by more of the same.

There is no commercial life in Bel-Air – no markets, no bars, no boutiques – just great homes and the wonderful Hotel Bel-Air.

History

Bel-Air's Beginnings

Bel-Air is the creation of one man, **Alphonso Bell**, who made a lot of money in Southern California as an oilman and land developer. At some point he acquired the Buenos Aires Ranch in the foothills of the Santa Monica range, and then in 1922 added 600 contiguous acres in the can-

yons, foothills and mountain slopes west of Beverly Hills and north of what is now Westwood.

He replaced the native chaparral with trees and lush, exotic vegetation to line his new winding roads and to blanket a raw country club. Bel-Air Stables opened so the residents could board their horses and enjoy miles of equestrian trails winding through the canyons.

Bel-Air soon became the most exclusive address in Los Angeles. The area attracted stars and producers who bought large plots of land, often measured in acres rather than feet, though there are smaller lots as one drives up the steeper slopes toward Mulholland Drive along the top ridge of the mountain range.

FILM GLOSSARY

Looping – The re-recording of actors' dialogue, used mostly when the original recording is poor due to conditions on location (noise, airplanes, etc.). In a special studio the film is projected and the actors match their words to the lip movement on the screen.

Bringing It Up to Date

In 1946 a hotel man named Joseph Drown bought 18 acres off Stone Canyon Road in the heart of Bel-Air. He converted the mission-style building that was originally built as Bell's land sales office into the main building of the new **Hotel Bel-Air**. He closed the stables and built the oval-shaped pool at the site of the original riding ring, transformed the grounds into lush gardens and added romantic Swan Lake.

In addition to the celebrities already living in this beautiful area – close to the studios and the city, yet quiet and peaceful – the new hotel attracted privacy-seeking stars like Grace Kelly, Jackie Gleason, Cary Grant, Elizabeth Taylor and Marilyn Monroe, (though her favorite over the years was always the Beverly Hills Hotel).

Because most of the estates have extensive grounds, and because the still-chaparral-covered canyons are deep and the hillsides are steep, there is plenty of wildlife remaining. Squirrels, raccoons and dozens of species of birds (hummingbirds are attracted by the exotic imported vegetation) are common. Deer are less often seen than in earlier days.

Getting Here

From LAX

By Car

Take Sepulveda Boulevard from the airport exit to the San Diego Freeway (405) going north; get off at Sunset Boulevard going east (to the right). Stay on Sunset (the UCLA campus will be on your right) for about five minutes to Stone Canyon Road on your left.

By Bus

You cannot really get here by bus. If you take the free airport shuttle to Lot C, go to Dock 9 and get Metro Bus #561. That will take you to Hilgard Avenue and Charing Cross Road near UCLA, a block from Sunset Boulevard and about a mile walk to the Bel-Air Hotel. If you wonder how the cleaning people and non live-in help get to the homes they work in, someone drives from the house to the bus stop to pick them up.

By Taxi

Late morning and midday fare is about $30 (plus $2.50 airport fee); later in the afternoon and evening it's more, due to traffic.

TO HYPHENATE OR NOT TO HYPHENATE?

Alphonso Bell put a hyphen in the area's name when he called it Bel-Air Estates in 1922. The Hotel Bel-Air and the residents' Bel-Air Association are both hyphenated, but Thomas Bros. Maps, LA's gazetteers, has it as Bel Air Estates (hyphenless), and the Bel Air City Planning Department is also missing the hyphen.

Commercial businesses like the Bel Air Postal Center are, you will notice, hyphen deprived, but that doesn't really count since they are located at Beverly Glen Circle, on the edge of but not actually in Bel-Air.

Getting Around

Two of Los Angeles' primary east-west roads border Bel-Air – Sunset Boulevard is to the south, and Mulholland Drive (along the top of the Santa Monica Mountain Range) is to the north; on the eastern edge of the community is Beverly Glen Boulevard, a road that climbs up a canyon from Sunset to Mulholland; and to the west is Sepulveda Boulevard, which parallels the San Diego Freeway (405). Between those, Stone Canyon, Stradella and Roscomare roads run south to north, connected by a system of winding streets.

None of the streets in Bel-Air Estates have sidewalks.

But life is seldom that simple: only the west side of Beverly Glen in the first eight blocks above Sunset is within the original Bel-Air. Farther up the road near the top, a commercial development with stores on an offshoot called Beverly Glen is a 1970s development. Over on the other side of Bel-Air, on Mulholland at Roscomare Road, there is a gate that says, "Bel-Air, North Gate," but when you enter here, you are in a more recent development.

Jan Berry and Dean O. Torrence (more familiarly known as Jan & Dean) wrote their famous hit song *Dead Man's Curve* after Mel Blanc was almost killed in an auto accident on the portion of Sunset Boulevard that borders Bel-

Air. The whole up and down, twisting section of Sunset from west of the Beverly Hills Hotel to the San Diego Freeway is accident-prone, but the stretch that divides Bel-Air from UCLA is the most dangerous. The specific part of the road that the song warns about is on the curve just west of a small cross street, Groverton Place, especially dangerous when going east (downhill) toward the UCLA athletic field, which is behind a row of trees.

Who Lives Here?

Large tour buses are not allowed on the roads in Bel-Air.

Henry Fonda, whose extraordinary career included the films *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Lady Eve*, *Mister Roberts* and *On Golden Pond*, lived in a Spanish Colonial-style home on Chalon Road for many years until his death. Son Peter Fonda, seen on the screen in films from *Easy Rider* to *Ulee's Gold*, lives not far away in upper Bel-Air. Our favorite Hungarian, Zsa Zsa Gabor, lived on Bel-Air Road, and Quincy Jones, film composer nonpareil, lives on Bel-Air Place. Elizabeth Taylor lived on a one-acre estate on Nimes Road back when she was married to Richard Burton.

Holmby Park at Beverly Glen and Comstock Avenue is a good place to see stars jogging.

Robert and Rosemary Stack have lived here for many years. Johnny and Joanna Carson moved in when they were first married; now divorced, Joanna is still here. And this is where ex-President and Nancy Reagan live. Farrah Fawcett recently sold the three-acre gated place she purchased with Lee Majors when they were married; Tony Curtis got a smaller place in Las Vegas but kept his house in Bel-Air; and Nicolas Cage moved into the Bel-Air home he bought after he sold his Hollywood Hills house.

Not all residents are movie stars. Novelist Judith Krantz has a golf course view from her house on the 17th hole of the Bel-Air Country Club. A small drawback is the sliced balls that sometimes plunk into her pool. Boxer Oscar De La Hoya, who is also making a career as a singer, recently sold his Bel-Air estate that had a 300-foot driveway and, of course, its own gym.

And then there is Wilt Chamberlain's place, high on a Bel-Air mountaintop above it all. The living room is five stories high; you can swim into the living room from the moat

swimming pool; there is a playroom with a wall-to-wall waterbed floor; the mirrored ceiling above the jumbo-size bed in the main bedroom retracts to reveal open sky; and the sunken Cleopatra-inspired bathtub at the foot of the bed can be filled at a touch of the pillow-side control panel. Wilt called it "a little kinky, with kinky details."

After the Hall of Famer died the bachelor pad went on sale for $7.4 million. Apparently there are not too many people who want a place like that; after a while the price dropped to $5.2 million. If it sounds like your kind of place, it is still available as we write this for $4.3 million. You had better snap it up quick!

On Location

Shooting is allowed here, but is almost always done on private property. There are occasional scenes of an exterior of one of the mansions, or someone may allow their interior to be used. The streets are all so narrow that there is really not room to park the necessary trucks on the public roads.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The *Beverly Hillbillies*, contrary to what you might think, did not live in Beverly Hills – the mansion seen in every episode was the Kirkeby Mansion, 750 Bel-Air Road, at the corner of St. Cloud Road right here in Bel-Air.

Best Place to Stay

There is only one place to stay in Bel-Air, but fortunately it is, for many, the best hotel in the city... maybe the country.

Room rates at Hotel Bel-Air are subject to a 14% city tax.

★★ HOTEL BEL-AIR

701 Stone Canyon Road
Los Angeles, CA 90077
☎ 310-472-1211, 800-648-4097
www.hotelbelair.com
Member Leading Hotels of the World
Deluxe

Hotel Bel-Air has won the "Number One Hotel in the World" award from Institutional Investor *four times.*

We stayed here a few years back. After checking in during the middle of the afternoon at a tiny desk that seemed more appropriate for a country inn, we then realized that is what the Bel-Air is, a country inn in the city. We were escorted down a curving path to a pink-stuccoed bungalow with a red-tiled roof that turned out to be our suite. Inside was a large, bright sitting room, then a few steps down to a good-size bedroom with a fireplace piled with wood ready to light. Beyond French doors was a bubbling hot tub in a small, high-walled patio. We fell in love with it all, right then.

A gardening staff of 11 changes flowers and plants with the seasons on the grounds of Hotel Bel-Air.

We went for a walk, first on cobbled paths around Swan Lake where two stately white swans, Eros and Aphrodite, were gliding over the dark water below the ancient sycamore trees, some of whose twisted limbs were growing almost horizontally. Ferns framed other walkways that led to the stream that flows beautifully in the rainy season, but dries up in summer along with almost all Southwest streams.

Hotel Bel-Air guests can get on a treadmill at 3am if the mood strikes: the Fitness Center is open 24 hours.

It was all really remarkable. The fern-like leaves of the largest silk floss tree in North America (or so a little sign informed us), a 12-foot-tall bird of paradise, a 200-year-old California live oak, even a grove of coastal redwood trees. Down in the southwest corner we found a big herb garden with basil, rosemary, oregano, sage, tarragon, cilantro and mint ready for use in the hotel's kitchen. And, on the way back to our digs, we passed by the dining room terrace where the thick branches of a 60-year-old East Indian lonchocarpus tree blanketed everything in a cloud of pale purple flowers. All this in the bottom of a canyon with slopes rising steeply on each side. As we arrived back, complimentary tea service was just being set up with tea and cakes in our bungalow. It was yummy.

Of the 92 rooms, 40 are suites, and all are different. Some have private patios with fountains; some have fireplaces. A number of celebrities who don't have homes in LA make a habit of staying here when they are in town. Around Oscar time this place is wall-to-wall stars.

Best Place to Eat

There is only one place to dine inside Bel-Air, the Restaurant at the hotel. Breakfast and lunch are casual, and dinner certainly doesn't call for a tuxedo, or even a tie as long as the rest of you is presentable, but we would never show up looking like slobs. Not at Hotel Bel-Air.

★★ **THE RESTAURANT**
Hotel Bel-Air
701 Stone Canyon Road
☎ 310-472-1211
French-Californian cuisine
Expensive

We celebrated Phyllis' birthday here in 2001. It is an attractive dining room with good food, impeccable service, and tables far enough apart so you can talk without your neighbors hearing every word. When the weather is right, floor to ceiling windows open out onto the Terrace, where you can dine year-round because of the heated terra-cotta tile floor and overhead heating system.

"Table One" is a private dining room in the Hotel Bel-Air kitchen, with a large picture window so guests can see the chef prepare their meal.

In addition to the three daily meals, afternoon tea and Sunday brunch are served. Celebrities who live in this area often eat here, and some stars who live out of town always stay at the Bel-Air when they are here to make a picture. Nancy Reagan used to have lunch on the Terrace every Tuesday; we suppose she still does. Breakfast is served Monday-Saturday, 7-10:30am and Sunday to 9:30; Sunday brunch, 11am-2pm. Lunch, Monday-Saturday, noon-2:30pm; dinner daily, 6:30-10:30pm.

Shopping

THE BOUTIQUE
Hotel Bel-Air
701 Stone Canyon Road
☎ 310-440-5858

Guests who want to take a pleasant reminder of the hotel home may get a robe here, or a creamy swan-shaped soap. There are usually soft sweaters, delicate gold necklaces and scented candles within hand-blown glass, but the selection is constantly changing. Much of the inventory is from abroad and sold here exclusively. The Boutique is open Monday-Saturday, 9am-9pm; Sunday, 9am-8pm.

After Dark

★★ **THE BAR**
Hotel Bel-Air
701 Stone Canyon Road
☎ 310-472-1211

This is one of the nicest bars in town. There is a wood-burning fireplace, walnut paneling, private niches and cozy tables. A pianist makes music at the baby grand piano every night. This has always been a favorite meeting place for Bel-Air residents and hotel guests.

FILM GLOSSARY

Cookie – An abstract pattern, usually cut from wood, suspended in front of a light, causing the pattern to be thrown onto the scene.

There is a story we heard when we were having lunch in The Bar one time, about George C. Scott, who had been banned for getting in his cups and slugging Richard Zanuck. He showed up a few days later, sheepishly stood in the doorway and called to the bartender to send over a Scotch.

We used to come here a lot when we were writing daytime soaps. For some reason soap production executives always stayed here when they came to town, so The Bar is where we would meet around lunchtime. If it was a late afternoon meeting it was usually in their suite. At first we thought it was a Proctor & Gamble quirk, but it turned out that no matter which soap we were writing the execs always stayed here.

Brentwood

Is there ever such a thing as enough?
– Pearl Bailey, *All the Fine Young Cannibals*

Going west on Sunset Boulevard from Bel-Air, you pass Westwood and the San Diego Freeway (405). Everything on the other side is tranquil, upscale Brentwood. It was not intensely developed until rather late in the scheme of things and yet, especially along Sunset, many of the lots are oversize and the houses, consequently, large. There are two village-like shopping centers, a small one just off Sunset west of the freeway, and a much larger one along San Vicente Boulevard from Bundy Drive down to Wilshire Boulevard, a stretch of about six blocks with a contiguous neighborhood of apartments and condos. It is an exceedingly pleasant place to live – quiet and safe and relatively remote from the fast-track transportation routes. We cannot remember ever seeing a tour bus prowling the streets of Brentwood. So it follows, as the night the day, that lots of show-biz folk who have made it have ended up here in one of Hollywood's Promised Lands.

Gary Cooper became the first Honorary Mayor of Brentwood Village in 1949.

History

Brentwood was part of Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica, 31,000 acres of mountain, mesa and ocean shoreline, granted in 1839 to Don Francisco Sepúlveda, a retired soldier of the King of Spain. The land stretched from Sepulveda Pass to the sea, and what is now Santa Monica Boulevard to the top of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Brentwood Village is the only commercial shopping area on Sunset Boulevard between the Palisades and West Hollywood.

At first it was one vast cattle ranch. In 1872 Sepúlveda's heirs, who wanted to divide their inheritance and who thought the land would never be worth more than it was at that time, sold it for $2 an acre. Later the western part became the city of Santa Monica. In 1887 the new owners donated 300 acres to the federal government to establish the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, which became the present Veterans Administration at Wilshire and Sepulveda boulevards.

The San Vicente shopping area began as a cow path along the side of the Veterans Home property. The homes and stores for the families of these veterans, built along there, became the first settlement of Brentwood.

Brentwood Village, at Sunset Boulevard and Barrington Avenue, has maintained its quaint character since the 1920s. Originally there was a hitching post for horses and a goat farm down the street; its continued friendly and still "quaint" character is an asset for the upscale businesses here now.

Mandeville Canyon Road is a long cul-de-sac and does not reach Mulholland Drive.

Mandeville Canyon is the western border of Brentwood. There must have been a cabin there in the early days, perhaps for the *vaqueros* who would search for stray cattle, because historic accounts from the 1880s call it Casa Viejo (old house) Canyon. In the 1920s there was a polo field at the mouth of the canyon, and a large botanical garden, with plantings from all over the world, in the first stretch; many of the plantings are still here. The headquarters for the botanic garden park later became the home of Richard Widmark.

Getting Here

From LAX

By Car

Sepulveda Boulevard follows an Indian trail through the mountain pass to the San Fernando Valley.

Take Sepulveda Boulevard north to the San Diego Freeway (405), and go north. For San Vicente and Wilshire boulevards, get off at Wilshire. Go west, through Veterans Home; the first street on the right is San Vicente Boule-

vard. For Sunset and Barrington (Brentwood Village) get off at Sunset Boulevard, go west a few blocks to Barrington.

By Bus

Take the free shuttle bus marked "Lot C" from the terminal; when you reach Lot C, walk to the nearby Transit Center and take Santa Monica Bus #3 to Wilshire and Federal in Brentwood.

From Downtown Los Angeles

By Car

There is no fast way to get to Brentwood from downtown. Take Wilshire Boulevard all the way out and it will carry you along a good swath of the west side of the city, through the heart of Beverly Hills and Westwood's high-rise condo canyon. After driving under the San Diego Freeway you see the Veterans Center on both sides of Wilshire. The next street is San Vicente Drive to your right. This is Brentwood's larger village.

Or, take the Hollywood Freeway (101) to Sunset Boulevard and drive west through Hollywood, the Sunset Strip and the scenic part of Beverly Hills. Either way, it is no use being in too much of a hurry.

By Bus

From 5th Street (at Main, Broadway or Grand) take Metro Bus 720 to Wilshire and Barrington in Brentwood.

Getting Around

Brentwood's southern boundary is Wilshire Boulevard, and Sunset Boulevard makes the northern boundary; most of Brentwood's classiest homes go up into the hills on the north side of Sunset. Sepulveda Boulevard is the east

boundary; the west boundary consists of 26th Street and Mandeville Canyon.

Who Lives Here?

Brentwood has been popular with celebrities since the 1930s; at least for those looking for a tucked-away, less obvious and glitzy place than Beverly Hills. Billie Burke, Linda Darnell, Audrey Hepburn, Frederic March, Steve McQueen and Pat O'Brien lived here. Shirley Temple lived at 209 North Rockingham Avenue before 1951, Cole Porter at 416 North Rockingham Avenue and Joan Crawford at 426 North Bristol Avenue.

Kate Mulgrew of the Star Trek Voyager *TV series was named honorary mayor of Brentwood a few years ago.*

Incidentally, Phyllis knew Christina Crawford in New York. The first time Christina took Phyllis home to meet her mother, Joan Crawford's first words were to scream, "Don't walk on my white carpet! Take your shoes off!" When Christina later wrote her book, *Mommie Dearest,* we were not too surprised.

SCHOOL DAYS

In the 1930s, Grace Moore bought the property at 12001 Sunset Boulevard, and distinguished Los Angeles architect Paul Williams designed her house. Tyrone Power bought it in 1939. In 1947, part of the property, but not the house, became Marymount Jr. School. The children of Jimmy Durante, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, Randolph Hearst, Barron Hilton and Peter and Pat Lawford were students here.

When it became Brentwood School in 1993 the students buried a time capsule, which included an AIDS awareness ribbon, Internet Yellow Pages, newspaper coverage of the O.J. Simpson trial, a Windows '95 ad, music from the Grateful Dead and Coolio, and a Starbucks cup.

The original Tyrone Power family house is still next to the school, behind a tall hedge.

Others who own or have owned homes in Brentwood include Bea Arthur, Phyllis Diller, Sally Field, Harrison Ford, Tom Hanks, Dustin Hoffman, Angela Lansbury, Hal Linden, Dylan McDermott of *The Practice*, Rob Reiner, Ving Rhames of *Mission: Impossible*, Patrick Stewart, Sally Struthers and Betty White. Gary Cooper lived behind what is now St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, 11967 Sunset Boulevard. The church purchased its property in 1954. Current residents also include Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen; actress Shiva Afshar, who purchased a home recently from Melanie Griffith and Antonio Banderas; Michelle Pfeiffer and writer-producer David Kelley. Mandeville Canyon, the westernmost part of Brentwood, was home to Lorne Greene of *Bonanza*, composer Meredith Wilson, Robert Taylor, Don Defore, and Esther Williams, as well as Dick Powell. Michael Douglas and Gregory Peck live there now.

The Cliff May Estates, next to Mandeville on the canyon floor, has no sidewalks. It was developed as a horsey area; there are narrow, tree-lined roads, and split rail fences fronting all the properties. Like Mandeville, this out-of-the-way area is heavily favored by show-biz people. Robert Wagner lives here, and Steven Spielberg is building a horse ring, though only after a noisy fight with the neighbors reduced its size from gargantuan to merely very big.

Composer Arnold Schoenberg lived on Rockingham Avenue across the street from Shirley Temple in the 1930s and '40s. Richard Nixon lived at 901 North Bundy Drive after losing the 1960 presidential election; this is where he wrote *Six Crises*. At the other end of the political spectrum, Tom Hayden lives in Brentwood now. Marilyn Monroe died at 12305 Fifth Helena Drive, off Carmelina Street.

O.J. Simpson lived at 360 North Rockingham Avenue when he was arrested for allegedly killing Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman at what is now 875 South Bundy Drive (the new owner had the address changed). And Dr. Bernard Lewinsky lives just a few blocks away. You may better know him as Monica's father.

FILM GLOSSARY

Storyboard – A series of drawings, which look like a panel of cartoons, illustrating the planned shots in a film sequence.

On Location

Archer School has continued Eastern Star's annual Maypole tradition, to the great appreciation of the neighborhood.

The attractive Spanish Colonial Revival building at 11725 Sunset Boulevard, just across from Brentwood Village, was built in the 1930s as the Eastern Star retirement home. It has been used many times as a location for movies and television, perhaps the most notable was *Chinatown*.

Whenever a film was shot here the home's supervisor always insisted that the residents be given first chance if any elderly extras were required. The property is now Archer School for Girls; we do not know if the principal insists that the casting director hire her schoolgirls.

Best Places to Stay

The accommodations price scale can be found on page 39.

Brentwood is much more an upscale residential community than a tourist destination. There are only a few places to stay.

Hotels

HOLIDAY INN
170 North Church Lane
Los Angeles, CA 90049
☎ 310-476-6411, 800-HOLIDAY
www.holiday-inn.com/brentwood-bel
Inexpensive/Moderate

This 17-story round hotel, like a non-leaning Tower of Pisa, is at the handy intersection where Sunset Boulevard crosses the San Diego Freeway (405). Most of the rooms have a balcony with a view, either of the freeway or the

mountains. There is a swimming pool, Jacuzzi and fitness center. The dining room for breakfast, lunch and dinner is on the top floor with views all around. Room service is available, as is complimentary shuttle service to Westwood, UCLA, Brentwood and the Getty Museum. Valet and self-parking.

LUXE SUMMIT HOTEL BEL-AIR
11461 Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90049
☎ 310-476-6571, 800-HOTEL-411, fax 310-471-6310
www.luxehotels.com
Moderate

The name says Bel-Air, but that is putting on airs a bit. Bel-Air ends on the other side of the freeway, this is actually the edge of Brentwood, the corner of Sunset Boulevard where Sepulveda and the San Diego Freeway start into the Sepulveda Pass. It is easy to find because the Getty Museum tops the hill just above.

This is still a very nice place with a pool, tennis, exercise facility and beauty treatments and massages, concierge, a café for breakfast, lunch and dinner and hors d'oeuvres and light dinner in the piano lounge. There is shuttle service to the Getty Center and UCLA (this is a very popular place for visiting scholars to stay, just few minutes from the campus), and airport towncar service for pick-up and return from LAX.

If you are driving from the airport, get on the San Diego Freeway (405) and get off at Sunset Boulevard. The hotel is on the northwest corner.

Motel

BRENTWOOD MOTOR HOTEL
12200 Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90049
☎ 310-476-9981, fax 310-471-0768
Inexpensive

The only motel on all of Sunset Boulevard from West Hollywood to the beach, the Brentwood is a good choice for anyone who prefers a small, simple place to a grand, luxu-

rious hotel. It has been sitting here for over 50 years, only 20 mostly single-level bungalows nestled in greenery, providing a little splash of old-time character and intimacy in the midst of elegant Brentwood.

There is a refrigerator in each room, continental breakfast, voice mail, fax and Internet access available. Additional persons $5 per person, weekly rates available.

Best Places to Eat

I'll have what she's having.
– Estelle Reiner, *When Harry Met Sally*

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

Brentwood's two business areas are relatively small, and the number of restaurants is accordingly few. But with only a few very good places in an area where many celebrities live, the star-gazing possibilities are high.

PEPPONE RESTAURANT
11628 Barrington Court
☎ 310-476-7379
Italian
Expensive

Sometimes we yearn for the old-fashioned Southern Italian food of our childhood: huge portions of pasta covered with heavy sauces in an atmosphere of red leather booths and dim lights. That is when we go to Miceli's in Hollywood, Matteo's in Westwood, or here. An extensive menu includes about 18 pasta dishes, meat dishes from sausage to filet, many fish and seafood items, and a dozen chicken preparations. If you would still prefer something else, just ask. This place has one of those congenial kitchens that is usually happy to oblige.

The restaurant is located in that little neighborhood village off Sunset Boulevard a few blocks west of Sepulveda and the San Diego Freeway. Open for dinner only, 5:30-11pm; Sunday from 4:30; last orders around 10:30. Full bar.

★★ TOSCANA
11633 San Vicente Boulevard
☎ 310-820-2448
Italian
Moderate-Expensive

Usually crowded, this restaurant is a favorite of show-biz types who live on the Westside, but not necessarily stars; you hear a lot of producer talk. Some people come here just for the pizza, but there are also other menu items, such as *medaglioni de manzo boscaiola* (filet mignon with porcini mushroom sauce), seafood, and, of course, pasta. Wine and beer only.

Open Monday-Saturday, 11:30am-3pm and 5:30-11pm; Sundays, 5-10:30pm. Although they try to take walk-ins, you may have a long wait if you don't have a reservation; you can book several days in advance. For lunch a reservation is recommended if you want to eat between 12:30 and 1:30pm. Valet parking available; street parking is very difficult around here.

★★ VINCENTI RISTORANTE
11930 San Vicente Boulevard
☎ 310-207-0127
Italian
Expensive-Very Expensive

This attractive, contemporary Italian restaurant has blond woods and modern Italian light fixtures, and a wood-burning grill and oven scent the air with enticing flavors. The pasta is made in-house, Mediterranean fish and seafood are flown from Italy. The risotto with shrimp, zucchini, zucchini blossoms and cheese is fine; meat enthusiasts tell us the steak and pork are excellent.

Maureen Vincenti is mum about naming her guests, always careful to protect the privacy of the celebrities who dine here. After all, you would not want to wade through a battery of paparazzi to get to the front door; think how embarrassing it would be when none of them took your picture. Open Tuesday-Saturday 6-9:30pm, Sunday 6-9pm; lunch Friday only noon-2pm. Valet parking.

★★ ZAX RESTAURANT
11604 San Vicente Boulevard
☎ 310-571-3800
California cuisine
Moderate-Expensive

This small place with plain brick walls has become very popular, for good reason. The young chef does not try to do everything in the world; weekdays she puts out a one-page menu, with some added specials on weekends, and does them all very well.

Zax features California cuisine, using fresh local ingredients available at the farmers' markets and from the produce grown for the restaurant in the Veterans Hospital garden right across the street. Salads might include jumbo asparagus or baby arugula, enhanced with fig balsamic vinaigrette or sheep's milk cheese.

The chicken glazed with lavender honey is a winner, and the New York steak is smeared with Roquefort-shallot butter to good effect. The risotto at Zax (you can tell risotto is a favorite of ours because we keep mentioning it) is made with white asparagus, morel mushrooms, and fava beans. There are also imaginative fish dishes.

A lot of tables are squeezed into this space, so it is a bit noisy when the room is full. Lunch Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm; dinner Tuesday-Thursday, 5:30-10pm; Friday-Saturday, until 10:30pm; Sunday, 5-9pm. Valet parking.

Shop Till You Drop

San Vicente Boulevard north of Wilshire is Brentwood's primary shopping area: it has some restaurants, some boutiques, a few bookstores. There is a median with grass and trees that runs all the way to the ocean from Bundy Drive. If you are on Sunset Boulevard, go a few blocks west of the freeway and you will see Brentwood Village, the smaller shopping area, to your left. Keep in mind that Brentwood is a small community, so you will not be overwhelmed by shopping opportunities; Hollywood, West Hollywood and Beverly Hills are the places for that.

The trees in the San Vicente Boulevard divider are coral trees.

Books

DUTTON'S BRENTWOOD BOOKSTORE
11975 San Vicente Boulevard
☎ 310-476-6263
www.duttonsbrentwood.com

A fine bookstore, with lots of contemporary fiction and non-fiction and a good selection of travel books, too, plus CDs and a café. We have been to several author readings and book signings. Open Monday-Friday, 9am-9pm; Saturday, 9am-6pm; Sunday, 11am-5pm.

Bakeries

THE CHEESECAKE FACTORY
11647 San Vicente Boulevard
☎ 310-826-7111
www.thecheesecakefactory.com

This is definitely not a mom-and-pop bakery; actually, it is one branch of a big company. Still, it is the most popular place in Brentwood, always crowded. Is that because it has the best cheesecake? That is too important a question, too personal a taste for us to advise anyone. You will have to try it for yourself. In any case, they have more varieties here than anywhere else. Open Monday-Thursday, 11:30am-11pm; Friday and Saturday, 11:30am-12:30am; Sunday, 10am-11pm. Between Barrington and Darlington avenues. There are branches of The Cheesecake Factory in Beverly Hills, 364 North Beverly Drive, ☎ 310-278-7270; Marina del Rey, 4142 Via Marina, ☎ 310-306-3344; and Woodland Hills, 6324 Canoga Avenue, ☎ 818-883-9900.

Natural Foods

★★ **WHOLE FOODS MARKET**
11737 San Vicente Boulevard
☎ 3120-826-4433
www.wholefoods.com

This is a big chain that bought up a very small local chain called Mrs. Gooch's. But it kept the organic produce, non-hormone-injected meats and antibiotic-free chicken and things that people like Jamie Lee Curtis and Diane Keaton look for when they are shopping, which is why you see them in here. Stop in, if you want to munch on an apple that tastes like an apple should. Open daily, 8am-10pm.

Other branches are in Beverly Hills, 239 North Crescent Drive, ☎ 310-274-3360; Sherman Oaks, 4520 North Sepulveda Boulevard, ☎ 818-382-3700, and 12905 Riverside Drive, ☎ 818-762-5548; West Hollywood, 7871 Santa Monica Boulevard, ☎ 323-848-4200; West Los Angeles, 11666 National Boulevard, ☎ 310-996-8840; and Woodland Hills, 21347 Ventura Boulevard, ☎ 818-610-0000.

Sunup to Sundown

Getty Museum

J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM
Getty Center
1200 Getty Center Drive
☎ 310-440-7330
www.getty.edu/museum

The Getty Museum is on the top of a hill on the west side of the San Diego Freeway, just north of Sunset Boulevard.

Brentwood's big attraction (almost the only attraction), is the Getty Museum. Built just a few years ago, the museum has revealed a surprising, and embarrassing, feeling of inferiority on the part of Los Angeles. Just a few months ago we again read in the *LA Times*, "The J. Paul Getty Museum... disproves any notion that Los Angeles lacks culture." Many of us, however, doubt that one museum is all that stands between Los Angeles and the barbarians.

For a month before the grand opening there was a story every day in the *Times* about the monumental event to come. The wonderful art we would see... the fabulous architecture... the gardens... the architect... the marble... the architect... The paper was gushing every morning like a schoolgirl.

Since its completion, the Getty has been referred to often as a contemporary Acropolis. To paraphrase a well-known remark, we know the Acropolis, and believe us, this is no Acropolis. Every time we passed while it was being built we tried to guess whether, from the Freeway's viewpoint, it looked more like a Silicon Valley smokeless factory or ineptly designed condominium buildings.

You can judge for yourself, whether you make the journey up to where it looms on the hill or merely pass by down below on the San Diego Freeway. We admit that up there, within the circle of buildings, it is impressive – some think world-class. But about a million cars passing by every day on the freeway see only the back of the buildings.

J. PAUL GETTY

J. Paul Getty was an obscenely wealthy oilman who lived in England in a castle filled with artwork. He had another place in Malibu that he turned into an museum filled with Greek art. When he died he left the largest art legacy in history to the Getty Foundation, which finances art education and restoration. The foundation built the Getty Museum, and now funds studies in art research and related fields.

The buildings are more or less low-rise, built largely of travertine that came from the same quarries used to build the Colosseum in Rome. Outside there are fountains, reflecting pools and gardens that change with the seasons.

Visitors take a driverless tram up the hill to the Getty Museum's central courtyard.

The museum's collection includes European paintings, drawings, sculpture, illuminated manuscripts and photographs. There is a café and, on a clear day, good views from downtown Los Angeles to the ocean. The Getty Museum is open Tuesday-Thursday and Sunday, 10am-6pm; Friday and Saturday, 10am-9pm closed Monday. Admission is

free, but parking is $5, and advance parking reservations are required; phone on weekdays before 4pm.

To get here by car, take the San Diego Freeway (405) going north (toward the San Fernando Valley); pass Wilshire and Sunset boulevards and continue to Getty Drive. Follow the road to parking structure. If you are using public transportation, from the beaches take Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus #1 on Santa Monica Boulevard, and ask for a transfer to bus #14 on Bundy Avenue. From Downtown Los Angeles get Santa Monica Big Blue Bus #10 at 6th Street and Grand Avenue going east on Grand, and transfer at Bundy and Pico to Santa Monica bus #14. All those buses run every 10-15 minutes during peak weekday hours; every 20-30 minutes during off-hours and on weekends. The fare is $1.25. Get schedule information at ☎ 310-451-5444, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, or online at www.bigbluebus.com. There is no direct bus service from Hollywood to the Getty.

🕮 HISTORIC NOTE

The Chevron station at the corner of Sunset and Barrington was built in 1938 in Spanish Colonial style. Its most distinctive feature is the 40-foot tower that houses a 20-by-20-foot room; this was rented in the 1950s and '60s by writers who liked its solitude and large windows. James Poe wrote *Lilies of the Field* here, as well as *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*, and the screen adaptation of *Around the World in 80 Days*, for which he shared an Oscar.

Sepulveda Pass Walking Trail

The bottom of Sepulveda Pass is almost filled in with the San Diego Freeway (405), where the traffic flows in two directions 24 hours a day. But the pass above that level is surprisingly wild. The walking trail starts just north of

the Getty Center Drive exit and zigzags its way over 500 feet up the chaparral-covered east side of the pass to the top. The distance is 2½ miles round-trip; it is fairly easy, with some climbing.

At the top is the East Sepulveda Fire Road. There is a golf course up here, too, but it is primarily a big, undeveloped, wild canyon. Up here, quail are common, and deer are seen occasionally. Walk south, to your right, for good views of the Getty Museum across the pass. Walk the other way for a view of the San Gabriel Mountains. Morning or late afternoon might be best, since there is no shade.

To get here by car, take the San Diego Freeway or Sepulveda Boulevard to the Getty Center Drive exit. Just north of the exit, on Sepulveda, is a parking area where the trail starts. For information phone the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, ☎ 310-589-3200.

Pacific Palisades

Pacific Palisades is a beautiful little community along the ocean; not as long as Malibu but wider, it stretches atop the palisades a few hundred feet above the sand and extends up into the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains between Santa Monica and Malibu. As you drive along Pacific Coast Highway between these communities, it is Pacific Palisades that you see on top of the cliff that looms over the road.

The name comes from the coastal cliffs. A palisade is a wall of logs standing upright, usually built to defend a fort. From a sailboat at sea, as we have seen it often, this cliff merely looks like a crumbling embankment, but from the shore, looking up the coast, the eroded gullies in its face make the intervening parts stand out like a line of logs that form a barricade. Well, sort of...

The original vegetation on the rolling terraces at the top of the cliffs and going a little way up the mountain slopes was coastal sage, at higher elevations was the chaparral. It is still that way in the untouched areas; whatever has been developed is mostly exotics from elsewhere: trees,

shrubs, flowers and grasses from all over the world that look beautiful now, but nothing like the original look.

Histozy

The Gabrieleno Indians lived on the Palisades mesa starting sometime after AD 500. This was near their northern boundary, while Malibu was the Chumash's southern boundary. The tribes were similar, but the Gabrielenos arrived in this area much later. They were a highly evolved people who had shared with the Chumash boats made of wooden planks and had a monetary system based on shell beads. Religious and solstice shrines were located on the mountain tops and, 1,500 years before Hollywood, there was a ceremony that used jimson weed, a hallucinogenic plant.

In 1838 the governor in Monterey awarded a land grant to Francisco Marquez and Ysidro Reyes. It was named *Boca de Santa Monica*, or Mouth of Santa Monica, referring to the fertile flatland in Santa Monica Canyon where it was possible to farm. But most of the grant was the hilly and mountainous land above the canyon to the north.

Official cordbearers measured out the land. Two riders, carrying poles tied together with a line 100 *varas* long (a *vara* was 33.3 inches, a unit based on the length of a man's arm), would start at Topanga Point on horseback; the two took turns riding the length of the cord. With the first man's pole anchored, the second rode on until the cord stretched taut, then jammed his pole in the sand. They continued until they measured 7,500 *varas* along the beach, ending past Santa Monica Canyon where Montana Avenue now reaches the bluff. The eastern boundary was the ridge line of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Rancho Boca de Santa Monica was rich with game, including bear. The Marquez family hunted in the mountains above Pacific Palisades until the 1930s.

The land was used as a cattle ranch. In the 1870s families from Los Angeles began camping out in Santa Monica Canyon on excursions. Some tents and cabins were built, even a hotel, and dances were held at night. In the 1880s the land was divided and awarded to the heirs of the original families. Much of it was sold off.

The Movies

Santa Ynez Canyon was first used as a location for silent pictures in 1909. Thomas Ince started making pictures there in 1911, when he leased 18,000 acres that stretched for 7.5 miles inland from the ocean, which gave him picturesque terrain from seashore to mountains. Ince hired an entire Wild West Show, complete with a Sioux Indian tribe, and began shooting Westerns.

THE BATTLE OF PACIFIC PALISADES

One of the last battles between the independent filmmakers and Thomas Edison's Trust, which held patents on the cameras and film, was held here. The Patent Trust men, intent on destroying Thomas Ince's studio, were coming up the coast road toward Inceville when Ince opened fire with some cannons he had been using in a Civil War picture. The Patent Trust's henchmen turned and ran. The future of movie-making in Hollywood was saved.

Ince kept a herd of cattle on the mesa for cowboys to round up in his Westerns. A brigantine was anchored offshore for pirates to attack. He built a Swiss village, a Puritan settlement, even a Japanese hamlet, whatever was needed to make motion pictures. Inceville was maintained as a Western location even after Ince built the studio that became MGM in Culver City, until it burned down a few years later.

It was at Inceville Studios in Pacific Palisades that William S. Hart first made movies and became a star.

The old Inceville Studio reached on down to the beach at the mouth of Santa Ynez Canyon. To find the site, drive out Sunset Boulevard and pass the parklike grounds of the Self-Realization Fellowship, near the northern end.

The 1920s & 1930s

There were no real settlements in Pacific Palisades until 1922, when a group of Methodists established a "Chautauqua of the West," emulating a popular cultural center

Mack Sennett shot many of the two-reel, silent Keystone Kops comedies in Pacific Palisades.

in New York State. After years of economic problems, outsiders were allowed to buy lots. The area soon became popular with artists, writers, theater people, architects... and wealthy entrepreneurs. The community expanded to its present size, but never incorporated as a city. It is one more part of far-flung Los Angeles.

Will Rogers started building his ranch in Pacific Palisades in 1923. He ended up with six miles of private roads, five miles of bridle paths, a nine-hole golf course and a polo field where other movie stars would join him in matches (see page 318).

Pacific Palisades was half-built by the 1930s when the Depression hit. Homes rented for as little as $15 a month, with the first month free. Raymond Chandler, poet laureate of Los Angeles, lived for a time on Hartzell Street.

Many celebrities have lived in Pacific Palisades over the years, almost always tranquilly, providing few salacious headlines. An exception occurred in 1935 when movie star Thelma Todd, who owned Thelma Todd's Sidewalk Café, was discovered dead, covered in blood and asphyxiated, in producer Roland West's nearby garage. In the following years there were many speculations, with lurid theories involving different Hollywood personalities, but it was never discovered what actually happened.

You will pass Thelma Todd's café as you drive up Pacific Coast Highway along the Castellammare bluff between Santa Ynez Canyon and Topanga Canyon. Driving north it is on your right just past the pedestrian overpass. It is the building at the south end of the block, which looks the same now as it did then.

The Emigrés

Hitler's ascension to power in Germany in 1933, and his 1938 conquest of Austria, with Austria playing the too-willing victim, led to an unexpected bonus for this area: as scores of actors, directors, writers and composers fled Europe, Pacific Palisades became for a time one of the great intellectual centers of the US.

Writer and director Berthold Viertel and his wife, Salka, an actress, arrived in 1929, with Berthold under contract

to Fox Studios. Salka took early morning walks along the beach with a neighbor, Greta Garbo, and later at MGM she wrote the screenplays for several of Garbo's pictures, including *Queen Christina* and *Anna Karenina*. The Viertels' house at 165 Mabery Road in Santa Monica Canyon became a haven for many who emigrated out of necessity.

Sunday gatherings at the Viertel house included guests like Dmitri Tiomkin, Max Reinhardt, Arnold Schönberg, Thomas and Heinrich Mann, Lion and Marta Feuchtwanger, Charlie Chaplin, and Oscar Levant. Katia and Thomas Mann (author of *The Magic Mountain* and winner of the Nobel Prize for literature) lived on San Remo Drive; Austrian composer Arnold Schönberg on nearby Rockingham Drive.

The Feuchtwangers bought a house on the more remote Paseo Miramar, where Chaplin and playwright Bertolt Brecht were frequent guests and where Charles Laughton, whose house was on Corona del Mar, gave Shakespearean readings in their garden. Brecht lived over the border in Santa Monica, where he wrote *Mother Courage* and *The Good Person of Szechwan*. Laughton and Brecht worked on the English translation of Brecht's *Galileo* in Laughton's garden.

The postwar period of the 1950s was a shameful one for the US when it came to Hollywood and the arts. Not only were hundreds of American-born writers, directors and actors blacklisted, but many emigrés were caught up in the Cold War paranoia. Ironically, the charge usually leveled against these artists who had been persecuted by Hitler was "premature anti-fascism." Bertolt Brecht was summoned by the House Un-American Activities Committee, and returned to Berlin. Lion Feuchtwanger was called to testify in the McCarthy hearings. Salka Viertel was blacklisted. Thomas Mann, protesting these injustices, also returned to Europe.

Getting Here

From LAX

By Car

From the airport take Sepulveda Boulevard and head north, staying in the left lane. At the second traffic light the road curves left onto Lincoln Boulevard. Stay with Lincoln to Pico Boulevard in Santa Monica, then turn left on Pico; continue to Ocean Avenue and go right to the next light at Pacific Coast Highway; turn left and go down the hill. Drive along the beach to Santa Monica Canyon and take Chautauqua up the hill. You are now in Pacific Palisades. At the top, at Sunset Boulevard, the village is a half-mile to the left.

By Bus

Take the free shuttle to Lot C and take Santa Monica Bus #3 (request a transfer); transfer at 4th and Broadway to bus #9, which goes up Sunset Boulevard to, and through, the village. Fare 50¢, seniors 25¢. ☎ 310-451-5444.

By Shuttle

Prime Time Shuttle, ☎ 800-733-8267, www.primetime-shuttle.com, $26 first person, $9 each additional.

By Taxi

Taxis are not found at the island in front of the terminal, but on the street, usually to your right. Fare will be around $40, plus a $2.50 airport fee; time involved around 45 minutes.

By Limousine

Try **Ace Limousine**, ☎ 310-452-7083, which charges $75 plus tax, tip and $5 airport fee; or **Gemstar Limousine**, ☎ 800-922-5466, with rates of $85 plus tax, tip and $5 airport fee.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The fee limo companies actually pay the airport is $1.50 per pickup (there is no charge for passenger drop-offs). Unlike taxis that have official meters, limousines can charge whatever they want. We have no idea why some of the approximately 900 limos that service LAX charge this additional fee.

Getting Around

By Car

Talk of getting around Pacific Palisades and you are talking about Sunset Boulevard. The community starts just west of Mandeville Canyon, where Sunset Boulevard climbs up onto the mesa. Driving west on Sunset, you pass the Will Rogers State Historic Park and Ranch. At this point, Sunset turns north and runs parallel to the coast above Palisades Park. The boulevard passes through the village and continues curving its way north, then west, to finally reach the Pacific Coast Highway.

Most streets in Pacific Palisades branch off Sunset Boulevard.

THE PALISADES TOPOGRAPHY

Six major canyons crease their way down through Pacific Palisades from the Santa Monica Mountains to the sea. Some of the canyons have lush vegetation, underground springs and meandering streams; some abound with wildlife.

The altitude of Pacific Palisades ranges from sea level to 2,126 feet at Temescal Peak.

Who Lives Here?

Residents refer to Pacific Palisades as "The Palisades."

Cuba Gooding Jr. (*Pearl Harbor*) bought a house here in 2000; Jeffrey Tambor (*How the Grinch Stole Christmas*) and Kasia Ostlun (of *Never Again* with Tambor) bought a place in 2001. Nanette Fabray, who launched her career by winning a talent contest at the Million Dollar Theatre downtown, and graduated from Hollywood High, lived here for years, and still keeps an office.

Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver, who have four children, recently bought yet another house in Pacific Palisades. They bought their first place here 15 years ago; eight years ago when neighbor John Forsythe was ready to sell they added his place and its tennis court. Two years later their neighbor on the other side, Daniel Travanti (*Hill Street Blues*) sold them his place. The most recent purchase was the property of one of the owners of the Pittsburgh Pirates who moved back to Pittsburgh; the Schwarzeneggers' compound at this point adds up to 5.5 acres.

When Ronald and Nancy Reagan were first married they lived in a ranch-style home on North Amalfi Drive. A few years later they built a new home on San Onofre Drive.

Film Glossary

Housekeeping Deal – A deal, usually between a studio and producer, in which the producer gets an office on the lot and a secretary in exchange for the studio getting first look at any projects he creates.

We have noticed a few professional athletes around; Kobe Bryant of the LA Lakers has been here for some time, and recently LA Dodger Shawn Green moved here.

Pacific Palisades' Honorary Mayors

Anthony Hopkins was elected Honorary Mayor of Pacific Palisades for 2000-2002. He said his qualification for the job is that he loves the town. He has spent every year of his mayoralty riding in the 4th of July Parade. The first Honorary Mayor was Esther Williams in 1949; others have included Jerry Lewis, Vivian Vance, Walter Matthau, Dom DeLuise, Chevy Chase, and Martin Short.

Best Place to Stay

Pacific Palisades has no hotels, not even any motels, but it has one wonderful inn. Well, it *almost* has one inn, which is at the bottom of one-block-wide Santa Monica Canyon. Pacific Palisades starts on top of the bluff on the north side of the canyon, and Santa Monica ends on top of the bluff on the south side of the canyon. Even though the Santa Monica Post Office delivers mail to this narrow slice of land in between, Pacific Palisades nevertheless claims the inn as its own.

CHANNEL ROAD INN BED & BREAKFAST
219 W. Channel Road
Santa Monica, CA 90402
☎ 310-459-1920, fax 310-454-9920
www.channelroadinn.com
Moderate-Expensive

The accommodations price scale can be found on page 39.

We loved this place the first time we saw it. Warm, inviting, comfortable, and relaxing are the words that came to mind as we walked into the living room and then saw the upstairs bedrooms. Just a block off the beach, three stories of wood painted a robin's-egg blue with white trim and a shake roof, it was built in 1910. The living room on the ground floor, with its big, tiled fireplace, evokes the 1920s. except for the computer that guests may use to check their

e-mail. The comfortable library is stocked with books and video tapes (all the rooms have VCRs).

There are 14 rooms in all, each one different; two are on the ground floor, one of which is handicapped-accessible. The rooms upstairs look out either on the flowering hillside or down Channel Road and out over the ocean. Many rooms have balconies with chairs and a table. The beds are all big; some fourposters, a few king-size. Room 3 in front has a a fourposter bed, a fireplace and a huge bathroom with whirlpool bath and a daybed for a child or extra guest. Room 5, the "romance suite," has a whirlpool bath with windows on three sides, just steps from the large bed.

A full breakfast is served in the breakfast room or out on the patio; tea and cookies are available from 3-5pm, and wine and cheese from 5-7pm. There are bicycles to borrow for pedaling along the oceanside path, good restaurants in Pacific Palisades and nearby Santa Monica, and free parking. To get here, drive from Santa Monica up Pacific Coast Highway to Channel Road.

Best Places to Eat

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

Pacific Palisades is not known as a great restaurant town, but there are a few places that attract celebrities, simply because they live here or nearby. Aren't there times you go to the neighborhood place rather than getting dressed up and schlepping downtown?

Fine Dining

★★ **DANTE PALISADES RESTAURANT**
1032 Swarthmore Avenue
☎ 310-459-7561
Italian
Inexpensive/Moderate

Dante's is unusual in that there are really two restaurants here. One is inexpensive, a casual place for families and kids. The other, to the left as you enter from the street, is more formal, much more for adults and serious dining. We, and many Palisades residents, like this idea. The food

is Italian with a slight twist – Angelo is actually Basque – but his heart and marinara sauce are definitely in the right place. At least Goldie Hawn and Michelle Pfeiffer seem to like it here.

Casual Dining

GLADSTONE'S 4 FISH
17300 Pacific Coast Highway
☎ 310-573-0212
Seafood
Moderate

It is big, always crowded, and you usually have to wait outside until they call your name on the loudspeaker. They serve several thousand meals each day. No one ever puts it on a list of best gourmet restaurants, but it is on the beach where Sunset Boulevard ends at Pacific Coast Highway, with a view. Big portions, big drinks. The parking lot is on the beach side of the highway, by the restaurant.

★★ **TERRI'S CAFE**
1028 Swarthmore Avenue
☎ 310-454-6467
Seafood, eclectic
Moderate

Families, kids and dogs seem to prefer Terri's. We have found it noisy inside, on occasion, but tables outside are very nice. People even bring along their dogs, especially on weekends, when breakfast is served all day. You might see Anthony Hopkins (he *is* the mayor, after all) and Goldie Hawn; Tommy Lee Jones and Tom Hanks eat here occasionally.

★★ **MORT'S PALISADES DELICATESSEN**
1035 Swarthmore Avenue
☎ 310-454-5511
Delicatessen
Moderate

Right across the street from the other two restaurants on Swarthmor is Mort's, a typical deli with a salad bar, too.

You can sit down inside, though the television always seems to be too loud; maybe that is why the tables out on the sidewalk are more popular. Our Palisades informants tell us of seeing Anthony Hopkins, Martin Short, Billy Crystal, Tom Cruise and Matthew Perry here.

VILLAGE NEWS

The little Village Green is a volunteer effort. Some put in the bench, others keep the grass mowed. There is a movement to erect a statue of Walter Matthau, who lived in the Palisades for many years and whom everyone knew, but it will probably come to naught. Some people feel if you start putting up a statue of one celebrity, where will it end?

Shopping & Services

No one drives to The Palisades from other parts of LA to shop, simply because there are no well-known boutiques of trendy shops of any kind here. Although celebrities have always lived here, the total population of only 27,000 is probably not enough to support a lot of high-end shops. But there are a couple of places worth mentioning.

Market

★★ **GELSON'S MARKET**
15424 Sunset Boulevard
☎ 310-459-4483

Some claim this is the market where you are more likely to spot a star among the succotash than in any other, including the Gelson's in Malibu. Someone told us of seeing Charlton Heston and Meredith Baxter at different times. Another friend mentioned seeing Peter Graves there.

Books

VILLAGE BOOKS
1049 Swarthmore Avenue
☎ 310-454-4063

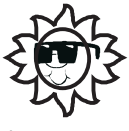
The small town of Pacific Palisades is lucky to have such a complete bookstore; only a place that is so heavily weighted with writers and university professors could support one. Owner Katy O'Laughlin has interesting authors, many local, doing readings and book signings here at least once every week.

Dry Cleaning

★★ **EMERSON LAMAY CLEANERS**
1045 Swarthmore Avenue
☎ 310-454-4015

Helen Campbell is a person who takes a lot of care with what she does. Clothes she has cleaned look so good that Billy Crystal, Michelle Pfeiffer, Diana Ross and Lakers basketball star Kobe Bryant are among those who bring (or more usually send) their clothes. Of course, the prices are commensurate: cleaning a dress or a suit is $12.95 and up, a dry-cleaned shirt $4.95, a shirt washed and hand-finished here is $2.95.

Sunup to Sundown



My ancestors didn't come over on the Mayflower, but they met the boat.

– Will Rogers

WILL ROGERS STATE HISTORIC PARK & RANCH
1501 Will Rogers State Park Road
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
☎ 310-454-8212, fax 310-459-2031

Will Rogers was a cowboy, a vaudeville performer, a comedian, an actor and one of the most famous personalities in America in the 1920s and '30s. He was part Cherokee, and

Smoking is not allowed on trails in Will Rogers State Historic Park.

Dogs must be kept on-leash in Will Rogers Park, and are allowed only on trails and developed areas.

was born in Indian Territory. Rogers bought this large property above Sunset Boulevard and built the ranch house in the late '20s. The house has been preserved exactly as it was when he and his family lived here (Rogers died in 1935). There are guided tours every hour on the half-hour from 10:30am-4:30pm; Will Rogers' films – both silents and "talkies" – are screened at the Visitor Center.

The park makes a nice place for an outing. There is a picnic area, and barbecue pits are available on a first-come basis. There are several walks and hikes (see below). Parking is $3, near the polo field or the ranch house. Will Rogers Road is off Sunset Boulevard on the east side of Pacific Palisades; from Brentwood, top the hill past Mandeville Canyon Road. From Santa Monica take the Coast Highway north to Chautauqua and turn right; go right again on Sunset. Less than a mile from Chautauqua turn left on Will Rogers State Park Road. Parking is at the end.

See a polo match (free) every weekend at Will Rogers State Park, ☎ 310-454-8212.

Will Rogers played polo often on his private grounds with others like Clark Gable and Walt Disney; after a match, the players would repair to the Beverly Hills Hotel for libations – this is the derivation of The Polo Lounge's name. This is now the last outdoor polo field in LA County (there were, remarkably, 30-some in the 1930s), and matches are played here every weekend during the summer season. Celebrity guests are often seen at the charity matches; call ☎ 310-573-5000, or see www.willrogerspolo.org for information.

The Rustic Canyon hike is the beginning of the 55-mile Backbone Trail that runs the length of the Santa Monica Mountains, from Will Rogers State Park to Point Magu.

HIKING TRAILS

The **Inspiration Point Trail** is two miles round-trip, about a 300-foot rise, rated easy. The trail starts near the tennis courts, just west of the ranch house. Take the widest trail, a bridle path. It is eucalyptus-lined and ascends a ridge; turn off at a junction to Inspiration Point. The clear-day views are remarkable; you can see from Aaron Spelling's 123-room mansion all the way to downtown Los Angeles on one side, and to Catalina Island on the other.

Rustic Canyon Trail, five miles round-trip, about three hours, 900-foot elevation gain, moderate. Start out on main trail west of ranch house. Pass Inspiration Point turnoff (trail is well marked) look for Backbone Trailhead. The first two miles are uphill, then, after crossing a bridge, descends into Rustic Canyon with lush, overgrown vegetation and old abandoned buildings. Be careful of poison oak in the canyon. The trail criss-crosses the stream, then leads back to the park.

Take plenty of bottled water with you when hiking the trails here.

Temescal Canyon, west of Will Rogers State Park; three miles round-trip, 800 feet elevation gain, about 1½ hours. Drive west on Sunset Boulevard past Will Rogers Park, through the village of Pacific Palisades; turn right on Temescal Canyon Road. From Santa Monica, drive north on the Coast Highway, and turn right on Temescal. Park at entrance to Presbyterian Conference Grounds at the end of the road. The trail starts by the booth at the far end of the parking lot; it goes to the left and climbs the west ridge of the canyon to Skull Rock at the top. About a half-mile past that, the trail on the left goes down to the canyon floor where you will see a waterfall, and takes you back to the starting point.

WARNING!

Hike or bike only on designated trails. Wandering off the trail increases your chances of coming into contact with poison oak, rattlesnakes and ticks.

The word temescal, *as in Temescal Canyon, is an Indian word for sweat house.*

CHILDREN'S NATURE INSTITUTE
Temescal Gateway Park
1560 Sunset Boulevard
Pacific Palisades
☎ 310-998-1151
www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

Adults and children explore nature at a leisurely pace on an activity-filled nature walk with a friendly, knowledgeable guide. Kids search for animal homes and hideaways. Walks are held at county parks, beaches, canyons and marshes. Most are "stroller-friendly." Free, but a donation of $7 per family is requested. Reservations are highly recommended. Call or check the Web site for upcoming dates and places. The institute holds an annual festival in late May or early June that is filled with hands-on outdoor activities; admission is charged for this event.

The Glamour Communities A to Z

Cameras & Photography Supplies

Brentwood Camera Shop, 225 26th Street, ☎ 310-394-0256.

Car Rental

Westwood Rent-A-Car, 2100 Westwood Boulevard, ☎ 310-474-2333.

Hospitals

Brentwood Ambulatory Surgical Medical Center, 11645 Wilshire Boulevard, ☎ 310-442-9262.

UCLA Medical Center, 10833 LeConte Avenue, Westwood, ☎ 310-825-9111.

Library

Donald Bruce Kauffman Library, 11820 San Vicente Boulevard, Brentwood . . . . . ☎ 310-575-8273.

Locksmiths

Bel Air Locksmith (West LA) . . . . . ☎ 310-207-1414
Bel Air Locksmith (BH). . . . . ☎ 310-273-8238
Brentwood Locksmith . . . . . ☎ 310-207-1414
Brent Air Lock & Key . . . . . ☎ 310-447-5625
Locksmith of Pacific Palisades. . . . . ☎ 310-823-9221

Newspapers

Pacific Palisades Post, 839 Via De La Paz, ☎ 310-454-1321, comes out every Thursday. We always look for Barry Blitzer's column, which is often about local doings.

Pharmacies

Brent-Air Pharmacy, 134 South Barrington Avenue, ☎ 310-476-2211.

Brentwood Plaza Pharmacy, 11980 San Vicente Boulevard, ☎ 310-820-1496.

Knoll's Pharmacy, 16630 Marquez Avenue, Pacific Palisades, ☎ 310-454-6000 or 454-0604.

McKiernan Prescription Center, 900 Via de la Paz, Pacific Palisades, ☎ 310-454-0377.

Police & Fire

Emergency. . . . . ☎ 911
Bel-Air Police . . . . . ☎ 310-575-8402
Brentwood/Pacific PalisadesPolice. . ☎ 310-451-5273
Lifeguard, Will Rogers Beach . . . . . ☎ 310-394-3261
Poison Control . . . . . ☎ 800-876-4766

Post Offices

Brentwood, Barrington Station, 200 South Barrington Avenue, 90049, ☎ 800-275-8777.

Pacific Palisades, 15209 W. Sunset Boulevard, 90272, ☎ 310-454-3475.

Public Transportation

Brentwood is served by both Los Angeles' Metro Buses and by Santa Monica's buses. For route and schedule information contact **MTA**, ☎ 800-COMMUTE (266-6883) and **Big Blue Bus**, ☎ 310-451-5444.

Taxi & Limousine Services

Westwood Cab. . . . . ☎ 310-234-0709
Westwood Yellow Cab . . . . . ☎ 310-207-3394
Brentwood Cab. . . . . ☎ 310-478-6669
Brentwood Taxi . . . . . ☎ 310-234-0709
Brentwood Express Lim. Service . . . . ☎ 310-820-2253
Independent Taxi . . . . . ☎ 310-659-8294
Pacific Palisades Yellow Cab. . . . . ☎ 310-828-7777
United Checker Cab . . . . . ☎ 310-393-9699

Veterinary Services

Brentwood Pet Clinic, 11718 Olympic Boulevard, ☎ 310-473-0957

Pacific Palisades Veterinary Center, 853 Via De La Paz, ☎ 310-573-7707.

Visitor Information

Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce, 15330 Antioch, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272, ☎ 310-459-7963.

Below the Foothills

I remember you. You used to be big.
I am big. It's the pictures that got small.
– William Holden and Gloria Swanson,
Sunset Boulevard

To the south of Wilshire Boulevard is a broad plain that stretches to the ocean. Here are found a handful of communities with strong connections to the movies – one was a studio backlot until 40 years ago. They are **Century City**, which borders on Beverly Hills on the south side of Santa Monica and Wilshire boulevards; **Westwood**, also bordering Beverly Hills to the west; and **Culver City**, another cradle of the movies located a bit to the south toward the airport.

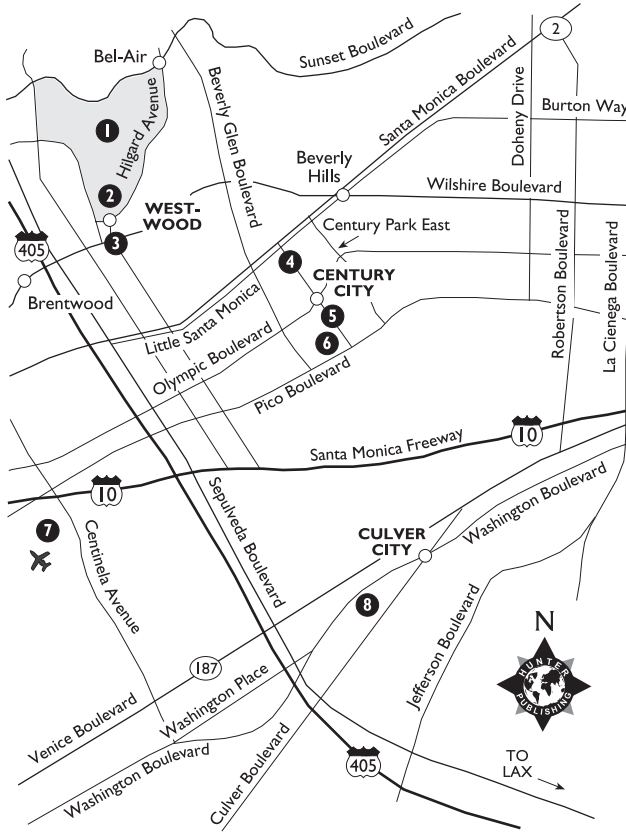
Century City

Century City is truly a child of the movie industry – it was built on 20th Century Fox Studio's back lot. Where once Tom Mix chased the bad guys across the chaparral, now only 30-story office towers and massive hotels grow.

History

20th Century Fox started when Beverly Hills was not much more than a minor stop on the rail line from downtown Los Angeles to the beach at Santa Monica. Most of the land past Beverly Hills was bean fields, so it did not cost much for the new studio to take in a big chunk of land to use as a back lot. But the fortunes of big studios wax

Below The Foothills



1. UCLA Campus
2. Geffen Playhouse
3. Armand Hammer Museum
4. Century City Shopping Center
5. Avenue of the Stars
6. 20th Century Fox Studios
7. Santa Monica Airport
8. Sony Studios

NOT TO SCALE

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and wane, and in 1961, 20th Century sold off all its land not being used for sound stages to Alcoa, which built a city.

Century City is built on only 178 acres of land; every inch was planned in advance.

It is not a city in the sense of having a mayor; like Hollywood, it is a part of Greater Los Angeles. Century City is a carefully planned mixed-use development, which includes office towers, a few large hotels, a mall with department stores and boutiques, cinemas and restaurants, thousands of apartments and condos, and a hospital – all on the edge of Beverly Hills. In fact, the office towers on the eastern edge of Century City look down on Beverly Hills High School.

Getting Here

From LAX

By Car

Head north on Sepulveda Boulevard to the San Diego Freeway (I-405); then go north on 405 to the Olympic Boulevard off-ramp. Go right (east) to Avenue of the Stars, which crosses over Olympic, and take the on-ramp to the right, which puts you in the middle of Century City.

By Bus

Take free shuttle bus to Lot C, then walk to the Transit Center and Culver City Bus #6, which will say "Sepulveda Boulevard." Transfer at Sepulveda and Santa Monica boulevards to Metro Bus #4 on Santa Monica Boulevard, going east to Avenue of the Stars.

From Downtown Los Angeles

Bus schedules differ from weekdays to weekends; make sure you are looking at the correct day's schedule.

By Car

Drive out Wilshire to Santa Monica Boulevard, or take the Hollywood Freeway (101) to the Santa Monica Boulevard

off-ramp and go west on Santa Monica. Where Wilshire and Santa Monica cross, continue straight ahead on Santa Monica to Avenue of the Stars (the next stop light) and turn left.

By Bus

Get Metro Bus #27 or #28 on Spring Street, going south, anywhere between 1st and 7th streets. Either bus takes you to the Century City Shopping Center at Little Santa Monica and Avenue of the Stars; fare is $1.35. Phone ☎ 800-COMMUTE (266-6883).

Getting Around

Finding your way here is not difficult because Century City is so compact. It takes in the area from Century Park East to Century Park West – two blocks with Avenue of the Stars between them. From north to south it goes from Little Santa Monica Boulevard to Pico Boulevard. In the downtown area those two streets would be miles apart but they converge as they come west so they are close together here.

Former President Ronald Reagan's Western White House when he was in office – and his own office thereafter – was on the 34th floor of Fox Plaza in Century City.

20th Century Fox is in the southwest corner of Century City, at Avenue of the Stars and Pico Boulevard, with the entrance on Pico. Century City Shopping Center is in the northwest corner at Avenue of the Stars and Little Santa Monica Boulevard. Office towers take up the northeast quarter, north of Olympic Boulevard, and condominiums the southeast quarter, south of Olympic.

Who Lives Here?

There are no mansions in Century City, no single-family homes of any kind, just condominiums. Billy Wilder lived in one for years, Dennis Franz (*NYPD Blue*) moved here from Bel-Air. Another who left a big Bel-Air home for a condo here is Judge Joseph A. Wapner, of television's *The People's Court* and *Animal Court*.

FILM GLOSSARY

Dailies, a.k.a. **Rushes** – Footage shot, edited and projected the day after shooting for the director and production executives.

On Location

20th Century Fox has probably made use of locations in Century City more than most other studios; it is right here, just outside the back door, after all. In the years when the new city was being developed, the studio was making *Escape From the Planet of the Apes*. Only the four buildings at the corner of Little Santa Monica and Avenue of the Stars were in existence then, plus the bridge over the Avenue of the Stars from the Shopping Center. The film made extensive use of these structures, especially the bridge.

Die Hard, with Bruce Willis, shot all of its exteriors here and used the tall glass and granite structure of Fox Plaza, 2121 Avenue of the Stars, which will be familiar to anyone who has seen the film.

Best Places to Stay

There are only a few high-end places to stay in Century City, but they are very good.

Hotels

★★ **THE CENTURY PLAZA**
2025 Avenue of the Stars
Century City
Los Angeles, CA 90067
☎ 310-277-2000, fax 310-551-3355
Expensive

This is a high-profile hotel well used to catering to celebrities; seeing presidents and stars traipse through the lobby

The accommodations price scale can be found on page 39.

is not unusual, as there are banquets and charity dinners here every week, sometimes every night.

The marble lobby is floor-to-ceiling glass walls. The Plaza also has a new restaurant, **Breeze**, that has been called one of the two best in Los Angeles and one of the 20 best in the nation (see page 329). Other amenities include the largest spa in LA, and there are spectacular views from the 15 penthouse suites. This is the kind of hotel that makes you say "Wow!"

★★ PARK HYATT LOS ANGELES

2151 Avenue of the Stars
Los Angeles, CA 90067
☎ 310-277-1234, 800-778-7477, fax 310-785-9240
www.parkhyatt.com
Expensive

The Park Hyatt is a fine hotel, with more suites than rooms; the executive suites have large sundecks, and all the rooms and suites have private balconies. The **Park Grill** restaurant is a meeting place for folks in the industry, especially at breakfast. The staff is multilingual, the gift shop carries international newspapers, and there is a florist shop. Room service is available 24 hours, as is valet service, and the hotel offers a complimentary health club with indoor pool, sauna and steam room, and complimentary limousine service to Beverly Hills and the Rodeo Drive shopping area.

THE ST. REGIS

2055 Avenue of the Stars
Los Angeles, CA 90067
☎ 310-277-6111, 877-787-3452, fax 310-277-3711
www.stregis.com
Deluxe

Call this a quiet, elegant haven for luxury travelers. Just off the lobby, in the stylish **St. Regis Bar**, is a huge mural of flamenco dancers; it's reminiscent of the Maxfield Parrish mural over the King Cole Bar at the St. Regis in New York. The **Encore** restaurant (see page 330) has floor-to-ceiling windows looking out over the gardens. Spacious guest rooms feature electronic controls in the bedside telephone console for most of the equipment in the room: the

entertainment system with surround sound; the lighting and air conditioning. The marble bathrooms have their own telephones and plush robes for guest use.

AS PRESIDENTS GO...

The entire top floor of the St. Regis was Ronald Reagan's presidential digs when he was in LA; he and Nancy stayed here 82 times. After a recent renovation, the suite's first guest was Bill Clinton. We were taken up there for a look; it is a great place for views, with glass everywhere and balconies on all four sides.

Amenities include spa and fitness rooms, outdoor pool and whirlpool. Services include fresh fruit daily, complimentary in-suite pressing and shoeshine, 24-hour butler service (an extra $150 per day), 24-hour concierge, limousine service, complimentary transportation within five miles. The staff is multilingual.

Best Places to Eat

There are dozens of places to eat in Century City; most are casual coffee or sandwich shops. You will find the best dining rooms in the hotels.

Fine Dining

★★ **BREEZE**
The Century Plaza
2025 Avenue of the Stars
☎ 310-551-3334
California cuisine
Expensive

Breeze offers a California grill menu that changes daily. We cannot tell you what we recommend, but the selection will be heavily influenced by what is fresh – there is lots of seafood, so you can count on stone crab and softshell crab in season, as well as seasonal fruits and vegetables. The

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

herbs that are a big part of the cooking are grown right here at the hotel.

The food is fairly uncomplicated, not adorned with heavy sauces, and the presentation is straightforward. Breeze is more than a hotel dining room; it has its own entrance on Avenue of the Stars. There is a traditional bar facing the entrance, and a seafood bar on the opposite side facing the dining room. There you find carpaccios and tartares, and oysters and mussels on the half-shell. The tables on one side look out through a glass wall to a fountain; on the other side, the view is of an enormous coral tree and lush landscaping. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Valet parking at all times.

ENCORE
The St. Regis
2055 Avenue of the Stars
☎ 310-277-6111
Provençal
Expensive

The menu shows an emphasis on seafood, plus a few steaks and one free range chicken dish. All are prepared simply, with very fresh ingredients. The arc-shaped restaurant has floor-to-ceiling windows looking out on gardens, and a patio area among the foliage and fountains for relaxed dining.

★★ PARK GRILL RESTAURANT
The Park Hyatt
2151 Avenue of the Stars
☎ 310-277-1234
www.parkhyatt.com
California cuisine with Asian influences
Expensive

The menu is not very adventurous, but even ordinary dishes are superbly cooked and presented here. Items such as seared sea bass, grilled filet, angel hair pasta with prawns, and herb crusted chicken breast are usually on the menu, exactly what most people like best. The Park Grill attracts a lot of people in the business talking film projects, especially at breakfast.

Shop Till You Drop

Century City Shopping Center is the place to go. Fortunately, this fairly compact open mall is worth a visit.

★★ **CENTURY CITY SHOPPING CENTER**
10250 Little Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-277-3898

The mall is at Little Santa Monica and Century Park West, with entrances to underground parking on Little Santa Monica, Century Park West and Constellation Boulevard. Bloomingdale's is an anchor here, and it's a favorite of many celebrities who are originally from New York. While many of the shops are branches of chains, such as BCBG and Max Mara, enough of them are high-end that it is not uncommon to see stars. The mall also has a 14-screen cinema.

★★ **BRENTANO'S**
Next door to the Cinema
☎ 310-785-0204

Many celebrities browse the aisles here, and practically every star who writes a book, and most seem to sooner or later, comes here to do readings and book signings. It is a general interest bookstore, with a strong performance arts section and lots of expensive gift books. We have always found it a great place to spend time while we were waiting to go to a movie next door.

Westwood

A college widow stood for something in those days. In fact, she stood for plenty.

– Groucho Marx, *Horse Feathers*

Westwood Village is a unique blend of historic buildings (historic in LA usually means they go all the way back to the 1920s), with a mix of small businesses and theaters. Beyond the Village is the larger Westwood com-

munity extending east and south to Beverly Hills and Century City, and bordered on the west by the LA National Cemetery and on the north by the UCLA campus.

History

Like almost all of the land stretching west of downtown Los Angeles to the ocean, Westwood's history begins with a land grant, this one to Don Maximo Alanis, a soldier in the Spanish Army and an early settler. He was awarded 4,400 acres extending from what is today Sepulveda Boulevard east to Beverly Hills, and from the foothills south to Pico Boulevard. Señor Alanis named his spread Rancho San José de Buenos Ayres and remained there from the 1820s through the 1840s.

The land went through the hands of several families until the 1920s, when a developer convinced the state to move UCLA out here. By the time the new campus opened in 1929 the first part of the Village was built and residential lots were being sold to the south. It all grew in concert from then on.

The original buildings in the Village were Mediterranean-Revival style; many were designed by LA's famed architect Paul Williams, including the Italian Renaissance-style building now occupied by Tanino restaurant (see page 339). At first there were a few shops and restaurants and an outdoor skating rink, all aimed at creating a social and academic atmosphere that would appeal to the university population.

Paul R. Williams

Paul Williams was one of Los Angeles' most famous and distinguished architects; he was also the first African-American member of the American Institute of Architects. He designed dozens of homes for celebrities – Lucille Ball, Tyrone Power, Bill Robinson and Frank Sinatra, among others. His public buildings include Franz Hall at UCLA, the LA County Courthouse and the UN Building in Paris.

In the past 30 years, 600,000 Iranians have moved to Southern California. Westwood-Beverly Hills has become the center of Iranian life, as you will notice if you drive the stretch of Westwood Boulevard from Santa Monica to Wilshire boulevards, where there are many Iranian restaurants.

The second most prevalent language in Westwood is Farsi.

Getting Here

From LAX

I-405 is called the San Diego Freeway even though San Diego is 100 miles south and even if you are driving north.

By Car

Take Sepulveda Boulevard and go north to the San Diego Freeway; keep going north to the Wilshire Boulevard offramp, then go east on Wilshire. Turn left after a few blocks onto Westwood Boulevard.

By Bus

Take the free shuttle bus to Lot C, then Metro Bus #561 to Westwood Boulevard and Lindbrook Avenue; $1.85.

By Taxi

The fare is approximately $25, plus $2.50 airport fee and tip. Try **Westwood Cab**, ☎ 310-234-0709; **Westwood Yellow Cab**, ☎ 310-207-3394; or **Yellow Cab Co.**, ☎ 310-301-9211.

From Downtown Los Angeles

By Bus

Take the Rapid Metro #720 (the red bus) from 5th Street and Grand Avenue going west to Wilshire and Westwood boulevards; $1.35.

Getting Around

Westwood Village is compact. It's bounded by Wilshire Boulevard on the south and by Le Conte Avenue and the UCLA campus on the north; on the east is Hilgard Avenue and on the west is Gayley Avenue; in all it's only four by five blocks. The affluent residential area outside the Village proper extends alongside the UCLA campus, up to Sunset Boulevard and down to Wilshire.

The larger Westwood community encompasses the area from Beverly Glen Boulevard on the east to Sepulveda Boulevard on the west, about 15 blocks; and from Sunset Boulevard down to Santa Monica Boulevard. Many people living south of Santa Monica, down to Olympic and even Pico, think of their neighborhood as part of Westwood rather than the amorphous West Los Angeles.

Parking is metered on the streets and usually difficult to find, but there are several parking structures and lots. The parking structure on Broxton Avenue just south of Weyburn has one hour free parking daily from 8am-6pm; the second hour is also free with validation from a local merchant.

FILM GLOSSARY

Clapperboard or **Slate** – Two pieces of wood that are slapped together at the beginning of a shot to precisely synchronize picture and sound.

Who Lives Here?

In a switch from the usual star's-mansion-with-lawn, celebrities in Westwood live primarily in the tall buildings that line Wilshire's **Golden Mile**, the stretch from Beverly Hills to Westwood Boulevard. It is home for those who favor a New York style of high-rise living, such as Tom Selleck, Charlie Sheen, Jessica Simpson and Tori Spelling (perhaps only those whose names begin with S are allowed in?). Many of these places include services and amenities

such as a concierge, valet, fitness center, swimming pool and sundeck.

On Location

My mother wanted me to go to college. I wanted to go to UCLA but I couldn't find a place to park."

– Goldie Hawn, *Butterflies Are Free*

Westwood is well-used by the studios. Here are a few of the movies shot here, according to Steven Sann, local film buff: *American Gigolo* (the Bruin Theatre on Weyburn Avenue); *Gotcha!*; *Heaven Can Wait* (the remake with Warren Beatty, with scenes filmed on the 15th floor of the Oppenheim Tower); *I Am Sam* (many scenes were shot at the Starbucks next to the Fox Westwood Village Theatre, Weyburn and Broxton); *The Nutty Professor; and Welcome to L.A.*

You never see the UCLA campus identified as such on film, as the university won't permit it. But it has been used many times to double for other campuses in, for example, *Gross Anatomy*; *Love, American Style*; and many episodes of the TV series *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer.*

Best Places to Stay

Hotels

DOUBLETREE HOTEL
10740 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90024
☎ 310-475-8711, 800-472-8556, fax 310-475-5220
www.losangeleswestwood.doubletree.com
Moderate-Expensive

The Doubletree is on Wilshire Boulevard, in handy walking distance to everything in the Village. It is a big, tall hotel with good views from the upper rooms. There is a café that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus 24-hour room service, concierge to make it easier to get tickets and

The accommodations price scale can be found on page 39.

reservations around town, a swimming pool, exercise room, and a shuttle to the Getty Museum and UCLA.

HILGARD HOUSE HOTEL
927 Hilgard Avenue
Westwood, CA 90024
☎ 310-208-3945, 800-826-3934, fax 310-208-1972
Moderate

This is a small, European-style hotel, with just 55 comfortably sized rooms. No restaurant, no bar, no pool, no gift shops, but a free continental breakfast is served, free covered parking, there are Jacuzzi tubs in some rooms and the residential suites have kitchens. It is perfect – a small, very nice, quiet place without the bustle of a big hotel.

Hilgard Avenue runs along the east side of the UCLA campus; the hotel is between Weyburn and Le Conte (Hilgard House is directly across the street from the W Hotel).

W LOS ANGELES
930 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024
☎ 310-208-8765, 877-WHOTELS, fax 310-824-0355
www.whotels.com
Expensive-Deluxe

On the eastern edge of the Village, W is an all-suite hotel, with two pools, an extensive spa and gym, concierge, newsstand, and **Mojo**, an upscale restaurant (see page 337).

A lotta bucks were recently put into redoing what we thought was already a good hotel; it shows up in the design touches, like the use of fiber-optics at the entrance, giving guests the illusion they are walking on water. So it is no surprise to learn that the design was done by Dayna Lee, a set designer with many feature film credits, including *Dances With Wolves*.

The spa and gym are lavish, with a dozen types of massages and facials (try a poolside cabana massage) and private training sessions in the gym; plus steam rooms and a fully-equipped fitness facility. And to give anyone the chance to experience the life of a Hollywood mogul there is

an "Extreme Weekend" package that includes the use of a luxury convertible.

Best Places to Eat

Fine Dining

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

★★ **MATTEO'S**
2323 Westwood Boulevard
☎ 310-474-1109
Italian
Moderate

Matteo's is not technically in Westwood because it is south of Olympic Boulevard (almost to Pico), but everyone thinks of it as part of Westwood.

We have been coming here for many years, we hate to think how many, usually on a birthday. But it has not changed an iota in all that time. Dark wood paneling, red booths, food like your mother made (if your mother was Italian). Sinatra and the Rat Pack used to hang out here eons ago, and the older generation of celebrities still does on occasion. Sunday is the best day for star-peeking. Matteo's is open for dinner only, Tuesday-Sunday, 5 to 11pm. Valet parking. Watch which door you enter; Matteo's Taste of Hoboken next door is their down-scale, family joint.

MOJO
W Los Angeles
930 Hilgard Avenue
☎ 310-443-7820
Nuevo Latino
Expensive

Mojo, named for a Latino spice, is pronounced moe-hoe.

Located in the W Hotel, Mojo has been stylishly designed by Dayna Lee. You won't find exotic dishes with unpronounceable names. Instead, the menu consists of mostly steaks, pork chops, lamb chops and fish, but all are cooked with spices and touches that give them a new taste. Mojo is open daily for breakfast, 6:30-11:30am; and lunch, 11:30am-2:30pm; dinner is served Sunday-Thursday, 5:30-10pm; Friday and Saturday to 11pm. Valet parking.

★★ PALOMINO

10877 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-208-1960
Mediterranean
Moderate-Expensive

Palomino has big floor-to-ceiling windows, and it is a high ceiling; you can look out on the street for the entire length of the dining room. In other words, this is not a cozy, intimate kind of place. It is an attractive room, though, and the big bar in a separate room with high marble tables has its own menu.

The regular dinner menu has a dozen permanent items. A large handful of specials is added each day. The menu leans very much toward fish, though there were a few gestures at meat and pasta. We wish we could say nicer things about the food, as it is supposed to be inspired by "the simple and rustic dishes of Europe," but we found everything overcooked, and the service was slow. But, we have to add, others may have a better experience; the place was quite busy even though we were there on a rainy Monday night.

You may have trouble finding Palomino. The address is on Wilshire Boulevard, but we drove around a bit looking for it before we found the valet parking on Lindbrook Drive (a block north of Wilshire in the Village). We then walked back to the restaurant's entrance a block east of Westwood on the corner of Glendon Avenue and Wilshire. They are open for lunch, Monday-Friday, 11:30am-4pm; dinner, Sunday-Thursday, 4-10pm; Friday and Saturday, to 11pm. Reservations are advisable, especially on weekends.

★★ TENGU SUSHI LOUNGE

1085 Lindbrook Drive
Westwood Village
☎ 310-209-0071
Japanese
Moderate-Expensive

We are not, as a rule, great devotees of Japanese food, but we have become fans of this place. It is like a tapas bar. We go in and, while enjoying a perfect classic martini or a bottle of Kirin beer, we munch on a little of this and a sample

of that and a platter of those, and sometimes are filled before we even get to one of the main courses.

Tengu is an attractive place, popular with movie people. We like the small, romantically dim room (though the conversation at the next table is less likely to be about *amor* than about problems on the set). There is also a big, bright, sunken room with small tables and a long, busy sushi bar. And the separate cocktail lounge seems to be a neighborhood gathering place.

We recommend starting with a drink and a bowl of edamame to nibble while perusing the menu (they are as addictive as peanuts, but better). We usually order a small bowl of miso, a soup made with tofu, seaweed and scallions, which may not sound good but is actually delicious. They offer many types of sashimi and sushi, and raw seafood dishes such as tuna carpaccio or tuna tartare.

Edamame are fresh soybeans boiled in salted water. Bite off the tip of the pod, then squeeze the beans out with your teeth.

If you still have appetite enough for a main course there is filet mignon, five-spiced duck, twice-cooked chicken or grilled sea bass, each perfect in its own way. Although we are not usually dessert people we do eat the chocolate tartufo here, which may be the best ice cream we have ever had, including the gelati in Rome.

One anomaly: don't expect Japanese waiters. The last time we were here one of our servers said, as he put a plate down, "*Es caliente*." But all the waiters have been knowledgeable, enthusiastic about the food and ready to guide us through the menu. Tengu is in the Village, a block north of Wilshire and two blocks east of Westwood Boulevard. Valet parking.

TANINO RISTORANTE AND BAR
1043 Westwood Boulevard
Between Kinross and Weyburn Avenues
☎ 310-208-0444
www.tanino.com
Italian
Moderate

This is Italian food with a Sicilian emphasis; you see it right away on the menu, with the salad of marinated anchovies and pasta with sea urchin. Among the entrées is a lamb and polenta dish, and this is one of the few places in town to find *coniglio al forno*, roasted rabbit. The décor is

striking; it's in one of the dozen buildings in Westwood that date back to the beginnings of the village. Famed architect Paul Williams designed the Italianate building after the Pitti Palace in Florence; the restaurant is in a two-level space with the original ceiling frescos and carvings, elaborate wall murals and artisan plaster work intact. The bar is popular locally. Lunch, Monday-Friday, 11:30am-3pm; dinner, Monday-Saturday, 5:30-11:30pm; Sunday until 10pm. Reservations recommended.

Casual Dining

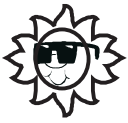
JERRY'S FAMOUS DELI
Westwood Village
10925 Weyburn Avenue
☎ 310-208-3354
Deli
Inexpensive

If you are in a mind for deli food, this one is handy to walk to from anywhere in the Village. Open Sunday-Thursday 7am-2am, Friday-Saturday 24 hours. Parking in daytime in lot in back, valet parking in evenings, may even find a space on the street late at night.

Shopping

Westwood Village started out as a small, pretty little place next to the UCLA campus, with lots of local stores featuring youthful, casual items. It became so popular that chains like Gap and Ann Taylor moved in; rents eventually became so high that the small entrepreneurs moved out. Then the crime rate rose, frightening many people away from the area. Right now it is in a down period, with many empty stores. However, if you need a camera or photographic supplies, you'll find a large selection at **Bel Air Camera**, 10925 Kinross Avenue (at Gayley), ☎ 310-208-5150.

Sunup to Sundown



ARMAND HAMMER MUSEUM
10899 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90024
☎ 310-443-7000, tours 310-443-7041
www.hammer.ucla.edu

Eclectic collections and exhibits from old masters to the newest unsung artist. The museum plans to close in the fall of 2004 for refurbishing, reopening in 2005. Admission is $4.50 for adults; $3 for seniors 65+; free for ages 17 and under; free for everyone on Thursdays. Hours are 11am-7pm, Tuesday-Saturday (open until 9pm on Thursday); 11am-5pm on Sunday. Closed Monday. Parking is $2.75 for three hours with museum validation.

FARMERS' MARKET
Weyburn Avenue, between Westwood Boulevard and Tiverton Avenue

The market is held every Thursday, year-round, from 2-7pm. Two blocks on Weyburn and one on Glendon are blocked off. There are usually around 70 organic food vendors, plus craftspeople, flower vendors, cooking demos, and live music, usually jazz.

After Dark

Games

THE WESTWOOD ARCADE
10965 Weyburn Avenue
☎ 310-443-4316

Since video games for home computers have become more sophisticated and adult-oriented, local arcades have become playgrounds, not only for kids but for Westwood's ubiquitous stockbrokers. This is one of the most active arcades, where you might see anyone. Jason Alexander, of *Seinfeld*, hangs out here. Hours are 10:30am-1am; in winter they close at 12:30am during the week.

Movies

Watch the LA Times *or* LA Weekly *movie ads for notices of premieres.*

Westwood, which used to be a village with a couple of really nice movie theaters for the college students and locals to see a picture once a week, has turned into the movie capital of the world. More premieres are held here than anywhere. There are seven cinemas in a few blocks.

All of the following telephone numbers have a 310 area code; those numbers indicated with an asterisk (*) are for ordering tickets in advance.

AVCO General Cinema, 10840 Wilshire Boulevard, ☎ 475-0711.

Mann Bruin, 948 Broxton Avenue, ☎ 239-MANN*.

Most premieres are held at the Bruin and the Village (known to locals by its old name, Fox).

Mann Festival, 10887 Lindbrook Drive, ☎ 208-4575*.

Mann Four Plex, 1050 Gayley Avenue, ☎ 208-7664*.

Mann National, 10925 Lindbrook Drive, ☎ 208-4366*.

Mann Plaza, 1067 Glendon Avenue, ☎ 208-3097*.

Mann Regent, 1045 Broxton Avenue, ☎ 208-3259*.

Mann Village, 961 Broxton Avenue, ☎ 208-5576*.

Theater

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE
10886 Le Conte Avenue
Westwood Village
☎ 310-208-5454, fax 310-209-8383
www.geffenplayhouse.com

The playhouse offers a season of five plays each year, in both classic and contemporary theater. Their programming is eclectic, offering musicals as well as traditional productions, including both West Coast and world premieres.

Culver City

I don't know nothin' 'bout birthin' no babies, Miss Scarlett.

– Prissy (Butterfly McQueen), *Gone With the Wind*

When it comes to where the movies were actually made, from about 1918 on, Culver City was at least as important as Hollywood. This is where MGM had their studio, joined later by Selznick and Hal Roach, who was incredibly meaningful to the world of comedy.

The "burning of Atlanta" for Gone With the Wind *was achieved on the back lot of the Selznick International studio in Culver City.*

Culver City's star has dimmed a bit since those days. MGM moved to Santa Monica and, while the physical studio remains, its fabulous back lots have disappeared under acres of cookie-cutter condos. Hal Roach's studio was razed, which was (or should have been) a criminal act; a nondescript industrial park has risen where Laurel and Hardy's water tank had been. Now, there is one ancient hotel, known mainly for its association with one picture; and one restaurant that has reason to be known outside the boundaries of Culver City itself. But for 40 years it was really something.

History

The 19th Century

In 1820 the settlers from Sonora, Mexico, were living in a Los Angeles that was steadily increasing in population. There was little cash coming in from Mexico, and few foreign ships called to leave any currency behind, so the residents developed a barter system. Two young men, Agustín Machado and Felipe Talamantes, saw that cattle provided hides, tallow and meat for bartering, and petitioned for exclusive grazing rights to an area called La Balloña Valley, 15 miles southwest of the town.

They were granted rights to an area that one person could circle on horseback between sunup and sundown in one day. Agustín camped overnight at the foot of the Del Rey hills by the seashore (just south of Marina del Rey) and set

off at sunrise. By the day's end he was able to claim 14,000 acres of land.

The name "Balloña" is probably a mispronunciation of the Spanish town of Bayona, ancestral home of one of the founders of the Rancho.

Besides grazing cattle and sheep on the green hills, Rancho La Balloña produced corn, pumpkins, beans, wheat, and grapes that turned out a prized white wine. La Balloña Creek, which drained all the land west of downtown LA from the Santa Monica Mountains south, flowed clear and full of fish, with fruit trees along the banks. When you are driving in the area now and pass over a concrete ditch about 10 feet wide and 10 feet deep you are gazing at the pitiful remains of La Balloña Creek. You can credit the Army Corps of Engineers and its mania for burying everything in cement; witness the Los Angeles River.

The rancho prospered, declined and prospered again. Fortunately the general trend was up, and Agustín, who ran the operation, became wealthy; but after the Americanos arrived in the 1850s his partners sold off (or lost to debt) pieces of their shares of the land. By 1867 there were 32 owners.

A SHORT & EASY HISTORY LESSON

La Balloña School was built in 1865. Miss Craft, from Boston, was paid $50 a month to instruct 160 children, though average attendance was 19.

While Northern Californians sympathized with the North in the Civil War, Southern Californians had a 100-year history of holding Indians as slaves, and they tended to support the South. During the war the army established a base at Camp Latham on La Balloña Creek, near the present Jefferson Boulevard, to keep Southern sympathy in check.

When Agustín Machado died in 1865 the Rancho was divided into 25 long, narrow strips so that each inheritor would have some fertile land near Balloña Creek, some higher land for dry farming, hillside land for pasture and some "worthless" coastal swamps. Gradually, during the real estate booms of the 1870s, '80s and '90s the land was divided and re-divided until hardly any was owned by descendants of the original owners. Except for that owned by Macedonio Aguilar, who not only kept his portion but bought up some of the others. It was his land on which Culver City was built.

Bringing It Up to Date

In 1910 a 30-year-old Nebraskan, Harry Culver, went to work for real estate man I.N. Van Nuys, whose name you will see prominently in the San Fernando Valley. After Harry learned the ropes he staked out the barley fields around Washington Boulevard and announced his plans for a city. Like Van Nuys, he modestly named it after himself.

Harry Culver was, above all, a salesman. He installed an 80,000-watt revolving searchlight that could be seen for 30 miles on the roof of his real estate office. He staged a polo game featuring Fords rather than horses. He promoted a marathon that started in Los Angeles and ended, predictably, at his sales office in Culver City. There were parades with brass bands, and the prize of a building lot to the parents of Culver City's Most Beautiful Baby. Anything to put Culver City on the map.

Culver City's official seal is inscribed with the words, "The Heart of Screenland."

In 1915, Culver saw an odd sight on La Balloña Creek: actors costumed as Indians with painted faces rowing down a mighty "river." It was Thomas Ince shooting a Western. Culver convinced Ince to move his Inceville studio from north of Santa Monica to Culver City. There just happened to be, right on Washington Boulevard, an 11-acre portion remaining from Macedonio Aguilar's La Balloña ranch. This site became the first of the three major motion picture studios that provided Culver City's economy with a base.

Thomas Ince built Ince Studios at 10202 Washington Boulevard; the landmark colonnaded structure is backed by a two-story administration building that stretches along Washington Boulevard to this day. The first picture shot there, *Civilization*, helped elect Woodrow Wilson to the presidency in 1916 on a "he kept us out of war" platform. Two years later Ince's company became Triangle Studios with D.W. Griffith and Mack Sennett as partners; a 16-acre expansion made Culver City home to the largest motion picture studio in the world.

The stages had glass walls, as they depended on natural light; actors in those early pictures included Western star William S. Hart, Billie Burke from Broadway, "Iron Eyes" Lew Cody, and Leo Carrillo, who was himself descended from a Mexican Land Grant family. Douglas Fairbanks, a minor star on the Broadway stage, was brought out by Triangle to appear in one of its first releases, *The Lamb*.

LIFE IMITATES ART

In the early days of Culver City studios a film crew set up to shoot a scene of a make-believe robbery at the Culver City Commercial and Savings Bank. When the crew broke for lunch a man walked into the bank and put a revolver in the cashier's back. While employees and customers applauded, thinking it was a rehearsal for the afternoon shooting, the cashier was locked in the vault and the real robber walked out with the real money, never to be seen again.

In 1918 Samuel Goldwyn bought Triangle Studios. He is the one who established the screen trademarks Leo the Lion and "Ars Gratia Artis" (Art for Art's Sake). Later there was a merger; the Metro Company moved from Hollywood, Louis B. Mayer Studios left East Los Angeles for Culver City, and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer was created. Goldwyn soon pulled out, but his name and trademark lion remained behind.

The first sound film shot at MGM was White Shadows of the South Seas*, 1929. The first sound heard was the roar of Leo the Lion.*

Goldwyn had started shooting *Ben Hur* in Italy before the merger; the new company found that the Colosseum's walls were too high to shoot in natural light except during a short time at noon. The picture was finished back home at an enormous cost which included rebuilding the Colosseum at Venice Boulevard and La Cienega – with lower walls. The stands were filled with Culver City residents who were enticed to double as Romans for $5 a day and a box lunch. Efforts paid off; *Ben Hur*, the first MGM movie, was the screen's biggest grosser for many decades.

FILM GLOSSARY

Line Producer – Though a dozen "producers" may be listed in the credits, the line producer is the one who supervises the actual production.

Thomas Ince moved east a few blocks and built a new studio at 9336 Washington Boulevard. The first building was the colonial mansion that still stands facing the boulevard. Ince built the lot up and produced a full schedule of films for several years until he died mysteriously on William Randolph Hearst's yacht in 1924. The Pathé Company, a French studio, owned the lot in 1929 when talkies came in. The company was called RKO-Pathé in 1933 when *King Kong* was shot.

It was the King Kong sets that were destroyed in the burning of Atlanta for Gone With the Wind *in 1939.*

The third of the big Culver City studios was built by Hal Roach in 1919 farther east on Washington. *The Little Rascals*, *Our Gang*, *Laurel and Hardy* and other comedies spilled out of the studio onto the surrounding streets; Hal Roach produced 50 comedies a year plus features.

The 1930s and '40s were MGM's golden days, with a succession of memorable stars and pictures. In 1941 more than half of all American-made films were produced in Culver City, and MGM captured eight Oscars. Ten years later the studio was in trouble and L.B. Mayer was forced to resign.

The onset of television delivered the *coup de grâce* to the studio system. MGM pretty well committed hari-kari when it sold its entire library of all the films it had ever produced to Ted Turner for use on television. Then it auctioned off most of its fabulous props and costumes, and finally disposed of 153 of its 183 acres, all five of the back lots. Only the original Lot #1 was left; Samuel Goldwyn would have recognized it easily.

We always disliked working at the studio, where you were supposed to go regularly to an office and spend a reasonable number of hours five days a week. We much preferred working at home. But we were trapped for a couple of years in the '70s at MGM. Whenever we would get stuck on a script and take a walk, hoping for inspiration to

strike, it was sort of sad to see how little activity there usually was on the lot. There were a few TV series, hardly ever any features. It was a transition period between the golden days of films and the present golden days of money.

Raintree, a condo and apartment development, occupies what was MGM Lot #3. You can still see part of the lake where the HMS Bounty *and the riverboat from* Showboat *floated.*

The old MGM lot is owned by Sony Corp. now, and divided between Tristar and Columbia Pictures. MGM has some offices in Santa Monica.

At the studio that Ince built, RKO-Pathe became Selznick International Studios. This was the period in the 1930s when *Gone With the Wind*, *A Star is Born* and *Intermezzo* were made. After television and changing times decimated the movie business the lot was owned by various entities, at one time by Desi Arnaz and Lucille Ball's company, Desilu.

During World War II the Hal Roach Studios became "Fort Roach." Most of the Army and Air Forces training films were made there. Ronald Reagan spent the war here working with some of the writers he later helped to blacklist.

For many years there had been abortive campaigns to establish a real museum dedicated to the history of motion pictures. The Roach lot, a small, historic studio that had fallen on hard times, would have been perfect and a wonderful destination for tourists. Instead, Culver City, "the heart of screenland," allowed it to be torn down in 1963 and a barely functioning industrial tract put in its place. (Los Angeles also paid no attention when the same fate befell Eagle-Lion Studio on Santa Monica Boulevard.)

FILM TRIVIA

Look for a marker on a strip of grass at Washington and National, the former site of Hal Roach Studios. It was placed there by the "Sons of the Desert," a Laurel and Hardy appreciation group, to commemorate the "Laugh Factory to the World."

Getting Here

From LAX

By Car

Exit airport to Sepulveda Boulevard, turn left and stay on it to Washington Boulevard, then turn right – you are in Culver City.

By Bus

Take the free airport shuttle to Lot C. Board the Culver City Bus #6, which follows Sepulveda Boulevard; transfer at Washington Boulevard to Bus Line #1 going east for downtown Culver City. Line 1 continues to Washington and Fairfax. Fare 75¢, children 50¢, seniors 35¢. ☎ 310-253-6500, recorded 310-253-6510.

By Shuttle

Fare to Culver City is about $16 for one person, $25 for two. Shuttle operators include **Prime Time Shuttle**, ☎ 800-733-8267, www.primetimeshuttle.com; **Super Shuttle**, ☎ 310-782-6600 or 323-775-6600, www.supershuttle.com; and **X-Press**, ☎ 800-427-7483.

By Taxi

Pick up a taxi by the island in front of terminal. Fare is $15-$18 plus a $2.50 airport fee.

From Downtown Los Angeles

By Car

Take any downtown street south to Washington Boulevard, turn right.

By Bus

Get Bus 33 or 333 going south on Spring Street and out Venice Boulevard to Culver City. Fare $1.35. ☎ 800-COMMUTE (266-6883) for information.

Getting Around

The Top employer in Culver City is Sony Pictures: over 2,000 residents work there.

Washington Boulevard is Culver City's main street. It runs the length of the city, from where the Santa Monica Freeway (10) crosses it in the east all the way out the shoestring strip to Lincoln Boulevard in Marina del Rey.

Culver Boulevard also crosses Washington, though at the opposite angle. From that point for the dozen blocks west to Overland Avenue is the heart of the city's business district. It also contains Sony's studio; Culver Studio is to the east. Look at an area map for the six streets that extend south of Culver Boulevard across from Sony (starting at Overland). They form an oval because the race track used to be there.

Culver City originally covered 1.2 square miles; through annexation it now covers almost five square miles.

The strangest part of Culver City is a long, thin strip that extends from the core of the city out to the west, reaching almost to Lincoln Boulevard in Marina del Rey. This umbilical cord, only 300 feet wide in places, was annexed in 1926 because there was a chunk of land at the end where some mover and shaker wanted to build a midget auto racing track. Hughes Aircraft later built helicopters there. Culver City wanted to allow a big mall on the site but Los Angeles blocked it: Culver City would get all the tax money and LA would get all the traffic grief. Now there is a Costco, which generates its own waves of traffic just one block from the corner of Washington and Lincoln, LA's busiest intersection.

Who Lived Here?

The enchanting Hobbit Houses, as they are called locally, were built by Lawrence Joseph between 1946 and 1970. The architecture will remind you of buildings from *Snow White*; crooked trees shade slanting roofs, their domes cov-

ered with mossy wooden shingles; walls are made of aged bricks and bulging mortar. A path wanders through rich vegetation to a thick, handcarved door. Former residents include Gwen Verdon, Nick Nolte, and Paula Prentiss and Richard Benjamin (as a couple).

The architecture was called Fantasy Revival Style (it was also known as Storybook Style), and was popular briefly during the 1920s and 30s. Arrol Gellner and Douglas Keister have a new book out, *Storybook Style*, which pictures the Hobbit Houses.

The houses are still here, on a one-block stretch of Dunn Drive between Venice and Washington boulevards. The site is near a hospital and movie theater on Washington, so there are open-air parking lots and a parking structure on this block. But if you look behind the trees and ferns and cool pools with fish you will find Culver City's hidden treasure. The houses are occupied, so just look; don't bother anyone.

On Location

Culver City's streets have shown up in literally thousands of films, especially if we are counting all the early silent two-reelers. Think of the Laurel and Hardy comedies: most of the off-the-lot shooting in all of them was done right here. *Putting Pants on Philip*, Laurel and Hardy's first two-reeler for Hal Roach Studio, was shot on the street with the Culver Hotel in the background. Another Laurel and Hardy film was *County Hospital*, which used the old City Hall. Their early *Hog Wild* was shot on the 4100 block on Madison Avenue.

Culver City's historian, Julie Lugo Cerra, told us that her father was one of the extras hired for the mob scenes when the original *Ben Hur* was shot at Venice and La Cienega boulevards. He and hundreds of other residents were also extras in *Last of the Mohicans*.

A few other films and TV series that used Culver City streets are *King Kong*, and the television series *Police Story* and *CHiPS*. The interior of the police station in *The Mad Bomber* was the actual Culver City police station; the exterior of that building was used in *Coming Home.*

★ TIP

Pick up a copy of the *Culver City News*, a weekly that comes out Thursdays, to see the column by Julie Lugo Cerra, the city's official historian.

Several episodes of Rod Serling's *Twilight Zone* were shot in part at Carlson Memorial Park, at Braddock and Le Bourget, a block south of Sony Studio in the old racetrack area. The old City Hall was the location for much of the *Hunter* series; the new City Hall was used by the more recent *Party of Five*.

The TV series *The Wonder Years* frequently used many of Culver City's residential streets; the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium at Overland Avenue and Culver Boulevard became the Court House for *Knots Landing*. For *Under the Rainbow* several blocks of Washington and Culver boulevards were closed off for the day. The remake of *Planet of the Apes*, shooting in 2001, filmed on some Culver City streets. And you may very well recognize the one-block stretch of Main Street between Washington and Venice boulevards, because it has been used so many times as "small town 1950s."

Best Place to Stay

★ **CULVER HOTEL**
9400 Culver Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90232
☎ 310-838-7963, 888-328-5837, fax 310-815-9618
www.culverhotel.com
Moderate

The accommodations price scale can be found on page 39.

When *The Wizard of Oz* was filmed at MGM, 124 little people were recruited from all over the country to play the Munchkins. Most were put up at the Culver City Hotel, just a few blocks from the studio. What happened next was the stuff of legend, with endless drunken parties and drunken brawls.

The stories were good enough to inspire *Under the Rainbow* (1981), which used the hotel to shoot that comedic take on the making of *The Wizard of Oz*. Other movies shot here included early Laurel and Hardy silents and *Our Gang* two-reelers. More recently were *The Last Action Hero*, with Arnold Schwarzenegger, and parts of the TV series *Party of Five*.

In 1924, Harry Culver built this oddly shaped hotel that sits in the middle of the intersection of Washington and Culver boulevards. Ronald Reagan and Joan Crawford were residents, and at one time it was owned by John Wayne. Clark Gable kept a suite here for a while, Red Skelton and Greta Garbo were among the guests over the years.

For many years the six-story Culver Hotel was the tallest building in Culver City.

New owners spent a lot of money renovating the hotel a few years ago, and the high-ceilinged lobby reflects this. But the décor is erratic and some of the rooms are rather frumpy. Room service can be fast, or it can be slow, but overall we liked the place; it has a homey feeling. Note: you can save money by booking your room on the internet.

Best Place to Eat

VERSAILLES RESTAURANT
10319 Venice Boulevard
☎ 310-558-3168
Cuban
Inexpensive

This is the most interesting and probably the best place in Culver City. People all over the Westside are aware of it, the line outside the door every night attests to that. The line also tells you they don't take reservations. There used to be a French restaurant here and when the new owners moved in they didn't bother to change the sign, but it was also serendipitous: a famous restaurant in Cuba and a knock-off in Miami have the same name.

Most people rave about the garlic chicken, but the black beans are very good, too. Add spicy pork dishes, fried plantains, fast service and cold beer. What more could anyone ask? Open daily, 11am-11pm. Parking in lot at front.

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

Shopping

Culver City is definitely not known as a place to go for shopping. Fox Hills, the mall on the southwest end of town, is pretty old and dowdy now, and there's not much of note downtown. But there are a few places that are special and worth checking out.

SORRENTO ITALIAN MARKET
5518 Sepulveda Boulevard
☎ 310-391-7654

The Vera family, which owns Sorrento, has a ranch in the Central Valley where they grow the fruit, wine and olives sold here.

Perhaps you are looking for some unique food or cooking implement as a gift for someone, or say you are simply hungry for something special. Sorrento has been here for 40 years with food from South America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East as well as Italy. It is the kind of place where you want to spend time browsing among the cans and bottles and deli cases, or order something hot and homemade to take along to eat. Open Monday-Saturday 7am-7pm, Sunday 7am-4pm. Parking lot in rear.

★★ ALLIED MODEL TRAINS
4411 Sepulveda Boulevard
☎ 310-313-9353

Here you will find one of the world's largest model train stores in a scaled-down replica of Union Station downtown. The displays are fantastic, with trains rolling along a track near the ceiling and others gliding through model villages and intricate landscapes in front of the large windows.

Don't turn your nose up at the small HO trains: one hand-crafted locomotive can cost from $500 to $2,000.

The store has provided layouts and equipment for many pictures, including *Star Trek*, *The Rat Pack*, and *Stuart Little*, and you would be surprised at how many celebrities have their own trains at home. Allen Drucker, the owner, declines to name individuals, to protect their sense of privacy when they drop in here, but he assured us they do, almost every week.

The store has everything from tiny half-inch Z gauge trains to the big nine-inch LGB gauge. But Allen told us that the standard HO gauge is the most popular. There is a separate room full of the most amazingly complete and

detailed model villages. What we like especially about this store is that there are separate departments for each type of train model, each staffed by an expert salesperson. Open Monday-Thursday and Saturday, 10am-6pm; Friday 10am-7pm.

A STAR-STRUCK CHIEF OF POLICE

California state law empowers local law enforcement authorities to issue concealed weapon permits. Except for a few rural counties up in the Sierra Mountains in the north of the state, few of these permits are handed out, especially in the big cities. A glaring exception is Culver City, where Police Chief Ted Cooke likes to help celebrities pack heat. In 1999, Culver City licensed over 400 gun toters; in contrast, the cities of Santa Monica, Torrance and celebrity-packed Beverly Hills combined issued a total of three. Over the years the chief has handed out concealed-weapon permits to scores, including Sammy Davis Jr., Johnny Carson, Sylvester Stallone, James Caan, Gary Coleman and Jim Belushi. Mostly in response to Chief Cooke's profligate scattering of permits to stars, none of whom lived in his jurisdiction, state law now mandates that permits can be issued only to persons who live in the same municipality.

Sunup to Sundown

If you are from colder climes and miss ice skating already, **Culver Ice Arena** is here. It is open Monday-Friday and Sunday, 1:30-5pm; Saturday, 11:30am-2pm and 2:30-5pm; plus Thursday-Sunday nights, 8-10:30pm. General admission (13 years and up), $6.25; kids, $5.25; skate rental, $2.50. 4545 Sepulveda Boulevard, ☎ 310-398-5719; for recorded information, ☎ 310-398-5718.

After Dark

JAZZ BAKERY
3233 Helms Avenue
☎ 310-271-9039

One of the best places to hear jazz. No tables, no dinner service, not even drink service, just respectful listening. Mostly top groups play here; shows are at 8 and 9:30pm. Cover charge $15 to $25, no minimum, all ages. Café Cantata in the lobby serves coffee, beer and wine, and munchies. Half-price tickets are sometimes available for students (with student ID) 30 minutes before showtime.

? Below the Foothills A to Z

Automotive Services

Goodman's Towing, Culver City . . . . . ☎ 310-839-2281

Hospitals

Century City Hospital, 2070 Century Park East, ☎ 310-553-6211.

Century City Hospital Out-Patient, 2080 Century Park East, ☎ 310-551-1463.

Brotman Medical Center, 3828 Delmas Terrace, Culver City, ☎ 310-836-7000. A large, full-service hospital with roots in the community since 1927.

UCLA Medical Center, 10833 Le Conte Avenue, Westwod, ☎ 310-825-8611; emergency room, ☎ 310-825-2111.

Locksmith

Metro Locksmith (Century City, Culver City, Westwood), ☎ 310-441-2755.

Miller's Lock Shop (Westwood), ☎ 310-393-8025.

Oakley Lock & Key (Culver City, Westwood), ☎ 310-474-4704.

Newsstands

News Spot, 10953 Kenross Avenue, Westwood ☎ 310-208-4408; daily, 8am-midnight

Westwood Village Newsstand, 1101 Westwood Boulevard, ☎ 310-208-5315; daily, 7am-midnight.

Pharmacies

Century City Pharmacy, 2080 Century Park East, ☎ 310-553-3434. Open Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm.

Culver City Medical Pharmacy, 4340 Overland Ave., Culver City, ☎ 310-559-6555. Open Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm.

Westwood Center Pharmacy, 10921 Wilshire Boulevard, ☎ 310-208-6666. Open Monday-Friday, 9am-7:30pm.

Police & Fire

Emergency . . . . . ☎ 911
Century City Police (West LA) . . . . . ☎ 310-575-8400
Culver City Fire Dept. . . . . . ☎ 310-253-5900
Culver City Police . . . . . ☎ 310-837-1221
Westwood Police . . . . . ☎ 310-575-8404

Post Offices

Westwood, Village Station, 11000 Wilshire Boulevard, (not in the Village), Los Angeles, CA 90024, ☎ 310-235-7443.

Culver City, Main Branch, 11111 Jefferson Boulevard, Culver City, CA 90230, ☎ 310-391-2704; Gateway Station, 9942 Culver Boulevard, Culver City, CA 90232, ☎ 310-204-0843.

Public Transportation

Culver City Municipal Bus. . . . . ☎ 310-253-6500
Metro Bus . . . . . ☎ 800-COMMUTE (266-6883)

Taxis

Beverly Hills Cab Co. . ☎ 310-273-6611 or 800-273-6611
Independent Taxi Co. . . . . . ☎ 310-800-9498
Yellow Cab Co. . . . . . ☎ 800-200-0011

Veterinary Services

★ **Culver City Animal Hospital**, 5830 Washington Boulevard, ☎ 310-836-4551. For more than 40 years this facility has specialized in small animal care. Because it is located just a few blocks from MGM, the staff here have cared for the pets of many stars over the years, including Yul Brynner's black German shepherd, Elvis and Priscilla Presley's two Great Danes (Snoopy and Brutus), Rod Stewart's collies, John Candy's menagerie of cats and dogs, and Sammy Davis Jr.'s Great Dane.

Visitor Information

Westwood Village Community Alliance, 1081 Westwood Boulevard, Suite 218, Los Angeles, CA 90024; ☎ 310-208-1984, www.westwood-village.org, www.yournorthvillage.org/westwood. Open Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5pm.

Century City Chamber of Commerce, 2029 Century Park East, Concourse Level, Century City, CA 90067, ☎ 310-553-2222, www.centurycitycc.com.

Culver City Chamber of Commerce, 10767 Washington Boulevard, Culver City, CA 90232, www.culvercitychamber.com, ☎ 310-287-3850.

Culver City Public Information, ☎ 310-253-5914.

The Beach Communities

God opens the sea with a blast of His nostrils!
– Old Man, on the parting of the Red Sea,
The Ten Commandments

They say everything in the US that was loose rolled westward and ended up in California, and that's certainly true here: the hippest, the wealthiest, the flakiest, the loosest, all eventually find their way to the beach. We hate to comment; we live here.

Marina del Rey

The westside beaches start with **Marina del Rey** on the south and move north through **Venice**, **Santa Monica**, **Topanga** and **Malibu**. Each is a very different kind of community, from tiny, rural Topanga to big, commercial Santa Monica; from eccentric, who-knows-what-might-happen-next-and-who-cares Venice to wealthy, very private Malibu.

Marina del Rey is Spanish for "Marina of the King."

History

Marina del Rey did not exist before 1965; now, with 6,000 boat slips, it is the largest marina in the country. Many who like to stay near the airport choose this area just a few miles from LAX, and quite a few TV series have been filmed here.

Marina del Rey is not truly a city; it is administered by the LA County Department of Beaches and Harbors.

This area was a marsh for thousands of years, popular with the shore Indians for its abundance of seafood and birds. Jump ahead to 1905. It was still a marsh, still a haunt of fishermen, but that is when Abbot Kinney built Venice by giving his Grand Canal an entrance to the sea

here, so tidal waters could flush the canals out twice each day.

The local pelican population was almost wiped out a few decades ago by DDT, but it has now come back.

These wetlands areas are incredibly important. The tidal mixture of freshwater and saltwater in a safe, marshy environment is what many species of fish and other creatures require to propagate and grow to a size where they can venture into the deeper ocean waters. Every time another wetland is destroyed we are all poorer for it.

Unfortunately, not enough attention is paid to this fact. In the 1950s people saw this area as a big useless swamp, so

Los Angeles County "put it to better use." It took a lot of digging to destroy it all, but in 1965 Marina del Rey was dedicated.

When the county built the marina they didn't just put in slips and let a few sailmakers, boat supply and fishing tackle places open up. Instead, they leased all the land between and around the basins to private corporations, which run the slips and put up apartment buildings. Of course, that cuts off some of the wind and most of the view, which seems odd for a small boat harbor. But, hey! Who is going to hand over more money to the county, some guys with dinky 17-foot sailboats or giant real estate corporations?

Of the 21 separate marinas that make up the total of Marina del Rey, 20 are private. The California Yacht Club, on Admiralty Way near the Marina del Rey Library, has private parking lots so its many celebrity members can discreetly come and go. And the trend lately is to take out the smaller boat slips available to the public and replace them with fewer larger slips. There is more money in it. But it is a beautiful place, and messing around on the water, or just sitting and looking at someone else doing it, is still one of our favorite things to do.

★ TIP

Actor Ted Danson is very involved in a non-profit organization called **Heal the Bay**. To learn the present quality of the bay's water, and the areas where it is inadvisable to go swimming or surfing, check their Web site: www.healthebay.org.

Getting Here

From LAX

By Car

The corner of Lincoln and Washington boulevards is the busiest intersection in Greater Los Angeles.

Take Sepulveda Boulevard north to Lincoln Boulevard (Highway 1), where you turn left; go through Westchester and over the Balloña Creek bridge to Fiji Way. The distance is 4.3 miles. Marina del Rey stretches from Fiji to Washington Boulevard, less than a mile. The marina and the beach are to your left, west of Lincoln Boulevard.

By Bus

Take the free airport shuttle to Lot C, then the Big Blue Bus #3; fare 50¢; seniors and disabled, 25¢.

By Shuttle

Approximate fare to the area is $13 for one person, $8-$10 for each additional passenger. Shuttle operators include **Prime Time Shuttle**, ☎ 800-733-8267, www.primetime-shuttle.com; and **Super Shuttle**, ☎ 310-782-6600 or 323-775-6600, www.supershuttle.com.

By Taxi

Call **My Taxi,** ☎ 800-4 MY-TAXI (469-8294); or **Celebrity Executive Car Service**, ☎ 310-398-8779. Approximate fare is $14, plus $2.50 airport fee.

From Downtown Los Angeles

By Car

Take the Santa Monica Freeway (10) west, to the San Diego Freeway (405); go south to the Marina Freeway (90) exit. Continue on 90 to Lincoln Boulevard.

By Bus

Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus #10 starts at Union Station and can be picked up at 3rd, 4th, or 5th streets on Flower, and 6th and 7th streets on Grand. It goes to 4th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard in Santa Monica. You can transfer to #3, which goes down Lincoln Boulevard to Fiji Way in Marina del Rey. Fare is $1.25; call ☎ 310-451-5444 for schedule.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The Marina Freeway was originally named the Richard Milhouse Nixon Freeway. It was supposed to slash through the middle of Marina del Rey to Pacific Avenue in Venice. An uproar from the residents stopped that, which is why is it now so short, and after Watergate the name was changed.

Getting Around

Marina del Rey is a rectangle with the beach running down its west (ocean) side; the main channel into the marina is at the south end of town along Fiji Way. The marina is between the beach and Lincoln Boulevard, the big thoroughfare; there are shopping centers and a few blocks of apartments and condos to the east of Lincoln. The streets that encircle the marina, Admiralty Way and Via Marina, are connected to the piers by streets named after South

Pacific islands. Between these are the boat basins designated by letter: Basins A through H. At the north end of the town is Washington Boulevard, which forms the boundary with Venice and runs out to the Venice Pier. Half the town is taken up by the water of the marina.

On Location

The most popular place to film in Marina del Rey is at the pier and boat slips of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

This is a popular place to film; there is lots of color and activity with boats rocking at their slips and moving around on the water. Scenes from the remake of Disney's *The Parent Trap* were shot here, and there has been a flurry of movies filming here in the last year or so; among them are *National Security* with Martin Lawrence; *Enough*, with Jennifer Lopez; Disney's *Big Trouble*, with Tim Allen, which was partially shot at the corner of Fiji and Admiralty Way; and *Simone*, starring Al Pacino, shot in part at Burton Chace Park on Mindanao Way and at various boat slips.

Television shows with episodes filmed in Marina del Rey include *Dallas* and *Knots Landing*. Later came *Baywatch*, which was shot at various times at Burton Chace Park, on the bike path and on different boat slips. Fisherman's Village, with its Cape Cod-style buildings, looks great on film and can fill in for fishing villages. The *Mission: Impossible* TV series filmed here several times, as did *The Mod Squad, The F.B.I.* and *Trapper John, MD*.

Best Places to Stay

This is a nice area, especially if you plan to spend some time enjoying the marina and the beaches, or if you just like to stay in a place with a view. It is not too far from Hollywood and Beverly Hills if you have a car; however, it can be a less-than-handy location if you are going to depend on public transportation.

The accommodations price scale can be found on page 39.

There are only a handful of hotels in Marina del Rey. Four are either right next to boat slips or the beach; two (Marina Beach Marriott and Marina International) are across the street but have views of the marina; and one (the Courtyard by Marriott) is a couple of blocks away, with no

view. We've also included some hotels near Los Angeles International Airport, in case you are arriving late in the evening or have an early flight out.

If seeing celebrities is your number-one priority, this is not an area where you will find yourself stumbling over them, unless someone is filming right under your nose. But you are close to Venice, where a lot more movie-making goes on.

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
13480 Maxella Avenue
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
☎ 310-822-8555, 800-321-2211
www.courtyard.com/laxcm
Moderate

This hotel does not overlook the water; it is in a large shopping complex with several restaurants and two movie multiplexes within a few minutes' walking distance. The Courtyard is a medium-size hotel with 276 rooms, including handicapped-accessible and smoking rooms; amenities include an outdoor swimming pool and a Jacuzzi, fitness room and bike rental (the bike path is very near). A breakfast buffet is offered, and the **Courtyard Café**, which has prices in the Moderate-Expensive range, is popular with local people, especially on holidays. There is free self-parking, and complimentary coffee in the lobby.

Aunt Kizzy's Back Porch restaurant, with Southern down-home style cooking, is a two-minute walk from the Marriott Courtyard.

MARINA BEACH MARRIOTT
4100 Admiralty Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
☎ 310-301-3000, 800-228-9290, fax 310-448-4870
www.marriott.com/marriott/laxmb
Moderate-Expensive

This Marriott is a big hotel, located a few steps from the marina, a few turns of the wheel from the bike path, a couple of blocks from Venice Pier. It has an impressive lobby, with acres of marble and massive pillars; there is an outdoor swimming pool, concierge and valet service, **Stone's Restaurant** for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and a lobby bar.

The Marina Beach Marriott is right across the street from Mother's Beach.

★ TIP

Fisherman's Village, once a thriving shopping place in Marina del Rey, has lately lost its luster, and many of its shops have closed. Only a few shops and eating places are open now. There are rumors it will be revived, but who knows when?

MARINA DEL REY HOTEL
13534 Bali Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
☎ 310-301-8167, 800-882-4000
www.marinadelreyhotel.com
Moderate

The Marina del Rey is one of only two hotels here that are right on the water (the upscale Ritz-Carlton is the other). The best rooms have a full view of the water and a balcony or patio; others are sans balcony; some have only a partial view. There is an outdoor pool and a putting green, a small dining room and a small cocktail lounge, and complimentary limousine service to and from LAX.

MARINA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL & BUNGALOWS
4200 Admiralty Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
☎ 310-301-2000, fax 310-301-6687
Inexpensive-Moderate

This is a medium-size hotel, across the street from the marina. Most rooms have private patios and balconies, and there are 25 bungalows. Amenities include dining room and lounge, swimming pool and Jacuzzi, complimentary parking and complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport.

But when we were there in 2001, we found things pretty run-down. There was no bellman on duty; the room was a nice size, but the bath had a loose shower head and the shower stall did not drain; room air conditioning could not be controlled; and the dining room was closed at lunch. Needs work.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The TV series *Baywatch* got its inspiration from the **County Lifeguard Baywatch Patrol**, which is based in Marina del Rey. When not on patrol, the real Baywatch boats can be seen docked near Fisherman's Village.

★★ THE RITZ-CARLTON
4375 Admiralty Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
☎ 310-823-1700, 800-241-3333, fax 310-305-0019
www.ritzcarlton.com
Expensive-Deluxe

As you might expect from the name, this is the top place to stay in Marina del Rey. The hotel stands on the bank of one of the basins; all of the rooms have balconies with views of the marina, with its hundreds of boats tied up directly below. The hotel has several dining rooms and lounges, including the **Lobby Lounge**, where tea is served in the afternoon. The concierge staff is multilingual and there is 24-hour room service and valet service. It is that kind of hotel.

It is a place where celebrities hole up, and more films, TV episodes and commercials are shot here than anywhere else in Marina del Rey. Some filmed in the last few years were *Melrose Place*, *Party of Five*, *The Game*, *The Parent Trap*, *Old Friends*, *Dance With Me*, *Chicago Hope*, *Seventh Heaven*, *Providence, Time of Your Life*, *JAG* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*.

BALANCING YOUR PRIORITIES

Is staying at a very good hotel more important to you than waking up to see a movie being shot on your doorstep? Marina del Rey has good hotels, but less location shooting. Venice is deficient when it comes to hotels, but is used as a location for more films than any of the other towns along the coast.

Near LAX

The big hotels (and they are all large here) start practically at the entrance to the airport and stretch back down the north side of Century Boulevard for a dozen blocks. The biggest advantage to staying near the airport is that you will be in your room and unpacked shortly after landing. Each hotel has its own shuttle bus to pick you up at the terminal. Ask, when making your reservation, if you need to call from inside the terminal for transportation. Some hotels, such as the Westin, have vans running continuously; for others you need to call for pickup. Don't worry about the noise from planes, as all the hotels have double-glazed windows for soundproofing. The disadvantage is that public transportation is not that good; if you don't have a rental car you may spend long periods of time waiting, only to find that no bus goes where you want to go.

Just Outside the Terminals

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT LAX
6161 West Century Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90045
☎ 310-649-1400, 800-321-2211, fax 310-649-0964
Inexpensive-Moderate

Smaller than most of the other airport hotels, the Courtyard by Marriott has more than 180 rooms, each with a separate sitting area. There is an outdoor spa, a café and lounge, complimentary parking and 24-hour free shuttle to and from LAX. The hotel is only two blocks from the airport. Head north on Sepulveda Boulevard, turn right on 98th Street, then right again on Vicksburg; the hotel is on the left.

FOUR POINTS SHERATON
9750 Airport Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90045
☎ 310-645-4600, 800-LAX-HOTEL, fax 310-649-7047
www.fourpointslax.com
Inexpensive

Only a quarter-mile from the airport with complimentary shuttle service every half-hour. The staff is multilingual, and there is 24-hour room service, an outdoor, Olympic-size pool, and a 24-hour fitness center. The **Palm Grill** serves breakfast from 6am, a lunch buffet, and dinner 5-10:30pm. **T.H. Brewster's Lounge** has California wines, Pacific Coast microbrews and Belgian ales. There are beer tastings and beer dinners for those who cannot get enough beer. To reach Airport Boulevard, go east on Century Boulevard out of LAX and continue for a few blocks; turn left on Airport Boulevard to the hotel.

★ TIP

When a brochure from a hotel near LAX says "less than 15 minutes from the Los Angeles Convention Center," they must be counting as the crow flies. However, you will not be flying with the crow, but traveling via the freeways, so give yourself between a half-hour and 45 minutes, depending on the time of day.

HILTON LOS ANGELES AIRPORT
5711 West Century Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90045
☎ 310-410-4000, 800-HILTONS, fax 310-410-6250
www.losangelesairport.hilton.com
Inexpensive-Moderate

Every large hotel in the city seems to now have a multimedia sports bar. The Hilton's is Landings.

The largest hotel by the airport, the Hilton has more than 1,200 rooms. Some of the nicest, we think, are lanai rooms that open onto a garden terrace or poolside deck. There is an outdoor swimming pool and several whirlpool spas, and the largest fitness center in the city, open 24 hours, with

aerobics classes and racquetball courts. **The Café** is a good choice for families, with breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets and a Sunday buffet brunch. The more romantic **Andiamo** serves northern Italian cuisine, while **The Bistro** has deli fare. There is also 24-hour room service.

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT MARRIOTT
5855 West Century Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90045
☎ 310-641-5700, 800-228-9290, fax 310-337-5358
www.marriott.com
Moderate

The Airport Marriott is a huge hotel with over 1,000 rooms, including three concierge floors. There is an outdoor swimming pool, whirlpool and sauna and a health club, as well as several places to eat, including **Allie's American Grille** for family dining, **JW's Steakhouse** for more casual fare, and **Champions**, a sports bar with light food and pizza. There is also complimentary coffee in the lobby, and room service from 6am-2am. The hotel provides complimentary transportation to LAX every 10 minutes, 24 hours a day, and there's a Hertz car rental desk in the lobby.

RENAISSANCE LOS ANGELES HOTEL – AIRPORT
9620 Airport Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90045
☎ 310-337-2800, 800-HOTELS 1, fax 310-216-6681
Moderate

A large hotel, with over 500 rooms, it's a half-mile from the airport. There is a fitness center, outdoor swimming pool, sauna and Jacuzzi; for those who prefer to exercise in private, a stationary bicycle can be delivered to the guest's room. The **Library Steakhouse** is an intimate room with an art collection, marble fireplace and candlelit tables; The **Conservatory** is a more casual brasserie; the **Lobby Lounge** has piano entertainment in the evenings. The hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to airport.

SHERATON GATEWAY HOTEL
6101 West Century Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90045
☎ 310-642-1111, 800-325-3535, fax 310-410-1267
Moderate

A big hotel, with over 700 rooms and suites, very near the airport. The Club Level serves a continental breakfast and evening hors d'oeuvres in the **Club Lounge**. Amenities include an outdoor swimming pool and spa; the **Brasserie** for breakfast and lunch (6am-5pm); and **Landry's** for dinner (5-11pm), which also features the **Daimon Sushi Bar**; and 24-hour room service.

THE WESTIN LOS ANGELES AIRPORT
5400 West Century Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90045
☎ 310-216-5858, 800-WESTIN, fax 310-670-1948
www.westin.com
Moderate-Expensive

The Westin, located four blocks from the airport, has over 700 rooms and suites. Their amenities include an outdoor pool, whirlpool and sundeck, fitness center and sauna, concierge, airline and rental car desks, gift shop, and a big, colonnaded lobby with groupings of deep, comfortable chairs and couches in case you intend to spend much time sitting around the lobby. Same-day laundry service is available, but there is also an unusual amenity for a hotel: a self-service laundry for guests' use. The hotel has valet and self-parking and frequent, 24-hour transportation to the airport. The Westin's **Charisma Café** is open 6am-11pm, and there is 24-hour room service. Wednesday night is Jazz Night in the **Lobby Lounge**, from 5 to 9pm. It's a major gathering spot for local Angelenos. Better still, there's no cover, no minimum, and validated parking.

North of the Airport

FURAMA HOTEL
8601 Lincoln Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90045
☎ 310-670-8111, 800-225-8126, fax 310-337-1883
www.furama-hotels.com
Inexpensive

The Furama is not in the cluster of hotels near the airport entrance; it's about halfway to Marina del Rey and the beach towns. That still puts it only five minutes away from the airport. It is a deceptive-looking building; you would never guess there are 773 rooms and suites, including poolside rooms with patios. There is nightly entertainment and dancing, complimentary scheduled shuttle service to Marina del Rey, Venice and Santa Monica, and complimentary airport transportation 24 hours a day. To get here from LAX, go north on Sepulveda Boulevard, and turn left on Lincoln Boulevard at the corner of the airport; the hotel is about a mile ahead, on your left.

Best Places to Eat

It used to be a pretty apt observation that the quality of the food declined as the quality of the view increased; restaurants right on the marina didn't have to worry because customers were going to come in anyway. These days, dining seems to have improved in many places here.

In Marina del Rey

ALEJO'S
4002 Lincoln Boulevard
☎ 310-822-0095
Italian
Inexpensive

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

No celebrities come in here that we know of, but we include it because it is our favorite neighborhood place and a great bargain. Alejo's is on the southeast corner of Lincoln and Washington, in a six-store strip mall. There are only a

dozen tables crowded together and it is always full at night, often with a line outside. Alejo's is also open for lunch on weekdays.

Sit down and enjoy chunks of bread dipped in garlic oil while you scan the menu. The bread here is baked daily, and we stop by at least once a week to buy a loaf or two to take home. The family is Italian from Argentina, but the food is basically home-cooked southern Italian. It's good and there's plenty of it.

Prices are incredibly low, even lower than usual because you bring your own bottle of wine; you might want to stop at a liquor store en route. Parking in the mini-mall is limited to 20 minutes; park on Del Rey Avenue, the little street right behind the restaurant, parallel to Lincoln Boulevard. Open Monday-Friday, 11am-10pm; Saturday-Sunday, 4-10pm.

★★ AUNT KIZZY'S BACK PORCH

4325 Glencoe Avenue
☎ 310-578-1005, fax 310-306-1715
Southern American
Inexpensive

Aunt Kizzy was the name of Leslie Uggams' character in Roots.

Not many inexpensive restaurants attract celebrities in large numbers; Aunt Kizzy's is the exception. This down-home place is a favorite of the elite. Willie Nelson comes here, and so do Stevie Wonder and Eddie Murphy, Rosanne Barr, Johnny Cochrane and Jesse Jackson. The menu features items like pork chops cooked slowly in a rich brown gravy, with collard greens and black-eyed peas.

Items such as Aunt Johnnie's fried chicken, Miss Flossie's chicken and dumplings, Uncle Wad's ribs or Sister Zethel's meat loaf are all named for relatives. No attitude here, just really comfortable food.

It is an attractive, homey place. No alcohol is served, but you can bring your own bottle of wine. Lemonade, iced tea or wine are all served in mason jars, just as they were in owner Adolf Dulan's childhood in Oklahoma. Cornbread arrives as soon as you sit down. The next thing that happens is the cornbread is all gone and you ask for more.

Adolf, the tall, distinguished gentleman who owns the place, told us about the name. In the south there are a lot

of shotgun cabins with a porch in front and in back. If you sit on the front porch you dress up a bit for the neighbors. But the back porch is the real comfortable, casual place to lounge.

Park free for Aunt Kizzy's in front or by the rear entrance.

When looking for Aunt Kizzy's, the street address does not mean much of anything because it is in the middle of a big, low-rise shopping area. There are four shopping areas within a few blocks, but you want the one with the Von's market (see page 39). Coming south from Washington Boulevard on Lincoln the first traffic light is Maxella Avenue. Turn left on Maxella and right on Glencoe. Von's is in the middle of the block, Aunt Kizzy's is next to it in the corner of the little strip mall.

There are no appetizers or soups, just entrées that come with vegetables; the most expensive entrée is $12.95. All desserts, like peach cobbler, are $2.95. It is really hard to spend much money here. Lunch is served Monday-Saturday, 11am-4pm; Sunday brunch buffet, 11am-3pm; dinner Sunday-Thursday, 4 to 10pm; Friday and Saturday, 4 to 11pm.

CAFE DEL REY
4451 Admiralty Way
☎ 310-823-6395
www.cafedelrey.com
California-French-Asian
Expensive

Café Del Rey has a sensible rule for stress-free dining: no use of cell phones in dining room.

The French-trained Japanese chef puts out a wide range of tastes. Courses start with Cuban black bean soup and go on to smoked salmon sushi roll and Hawaiian ahi tuna tartare. There is everything from pasta to Peking duck to osso buco Milanese on this fusion menu. The restaurant is on the water, overlooking the boats and the marina. Open for lunch, 11:30am-2:30pm; (they serve a light menu from 2:30-5:30); dinner is served on weekdays, 5:30 until 9:30; a bit later on Saturday nights; they close earlier on Sunday nights. An à la carte brunch is served on Sunday beginning at 10:30. Parking is available in a lot.

RÖCK
13455 Maxella Avenue
☎ 310-822-8979
California Casual
Inexpensive-Moderate

In case you wonder about the unusual name, this is a spin-off from a restaurant in Santa Monica named Röckenwagner. It is a casual place with a simple menu, but it is well regarded. Try the spicy tortilla soup or the chilled Spanish gazpacho soup to start; main courses include pasta, fish and steaks. Röck is open for lunch, Monday-Friday, 11:30am-2:30pm; for dinner nightly, 5:30-10pm; Friday and Saturday until 10:30. It is located off Lincoln Boulevard on the corner of Del Rey, on your left.

TONY P'S DOCKSIDE GRILL
4445 Admiralty Way
☎ 310-823-4534
American
Moderate

This unassuming, casual place right on the water was the location for scenes from the movie *Martial Law*, and before that *Clueless*, and several of the *Blind Date* shows. *V.I.P.* shot its dock scenes here. You can see why it is popular with directors as soon as you walk in – its location at the head of the main channel is perfect. Seat a couple of actors at one of the outside deck tables and the shot will pick up all the activity in the marina going on in the background.

Food ranges from sandwiches to steaks, and be warned: the dinners all start with a few loaves of homemade bread hot from the oven, and then the portions are huge. There is an extended four-hour happy hour, Monday-Friday, from 3 to 7pm, with appetizers and cheap drinks.

The long, narrow dining room has big windows that overlook the marina. The outside deck is really nice when the weather is good. And, if you are a sports fan, the adjoining Tavern has 20 TV sets going, all at the same time. (For nightlife at Tony P's, see page 389.)

Near LAX

Most dining around the airport is found in the hotels. But there are a few interesting stand-alone places.

ENCOUNTER RESTAURANT & BAR
209 World Way, LAX
☎ 310-215-5151
California
Moderate

This is the airport's theme restaurant, located in the middle of the U of terminals. It's up in the air on stilts, and looks like a flying saucer. Surprisingly, most guests are not waiting for planes but are locals or staying at nearby hotels. You can get sandwiches or a full menu at lunchtime. Dinner entrées emphasize seafood, but there is also poultry, pasta and meat. Big windows offer a view of planes arriving in an endless stream.

A few years ago Walt Disney Imagineering, the folks who do Disney World and such, redesigned the interior as a 1960s vision of the future, starting with the space-age elevator. Walls are curved; amoeba-shaped lighting structures are embedded in the ceiling; and lava lights help the ambiance, along with bar guns that emit laser lights and futuristic sound effects when bartenders pour a drink.

There is a sign at Terminal Two indicating where to turn left for the restaurant. Use the multi-level parking structure in the daytime; valet parking is available at night. Open daily, 11am-9pm.

★ TIP

If you have a long wait for a plane and would like to enjoy a leisurely meal or drink with a view of the airport, take the free shuttle that makes the rounds of all the terminals; get off at Terminal 6 and cross the street to Encounter Restaurant & Bar.

PROUD BIRD
11022 Aviation Boulevard
☎ 310-670-3093
American
Moderate

This well-known place serves lunch and dinner, but is best known for its big Sunday brunch, which encompasses three rooms with omelets and waffles to order, ham and roast beef carved for you, along with a dozen-and-a-half other hot entrées, a large spread of seafood, salads and desserts. Brunch is served 9am-3pm, for $18.95; kids $10.95. Lunch and dinner are served Monday-Thursday, 11am-10pm; Friday and Saturday, 11am-11pm; Sunday to 10pm. Take Century Boulevard east from LAX, almost to the San Diego Freeway, then turn right on Aviation Boulevard and head south a few short blocks to the corner of 111th Street. Self-parking is available on a lot.

★ **BUGGY WHIP**
7420 La Tijera Boulevard
Westchester
☎ 310-645-7131
Moderate-Expensive

We love this kind of place – dark wood paneling, red leather booths, a piano tinkling in the background, and a fine, really cold martini to start with. The warm and relaxing ambiance here provided a backdrop for a scene in the film *Blow*, starring Johnny Depp.

The Buggy Whip is just a block off the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on the way to LAX, so a lot of people stop off here en route. It is not just handy, though; the food is very good, especially if you are tired of nouveau-this-and-that and are hungering for steak, fish, seafood, or maybe ribs. If you are a lobster fan, they feature a 2½-lb. lobster tail at $49.95; the fresh 1¼-lb. Maine lobster, whole and sweeter, is $19.95. Steaks are big, up to 22 ounces. Many people come here just for the stone crab claws.

Be warned about ordering, as the portions are very large. We stopped in the other night, sat at the corner booth in the lounge (preferable to the dining room), and chatted with owner Paul Darricarrere, who knows lots of people in the movie business, while we looked at the menu. We

couldn't make up our minds so we ordered appetizers – the calamari strips sautéed in scampi batter and smoked Scottish salmon. We never got any further; that became our meal.

Shop Till You Drop

No one comes to Marina del Rey for shopping, though it is grossly oversupplied with shopping malls for such a small area. There are three within a few blocks. Waterside Shopping Center is bordered by Fiji and Mindanao, Lincoln Boulevard and Admiralty Way; two quasi-malls with similar names are off Lincoln Boulevard on Maxella Avenue, right across from each other. They are known locally as "the one with the Von's (market)," and "the one with the Gelson's (market)."

Sunup to Sundown

Beaches

There are two beaches in Marina del Rey, a big one on the Pacific Ocean and a small one in the marina.

Venice City Beach

Metered street parking near the beach is $1 an hour. If you plan to stay some time, bring plenty of quarters.

The Marina del Rey section of this beach begins at Washington Boulevard and runs south to Via Marina and the jetty, where the main channel of the marina enters the ocean. It is wide, clean and seldom-used; on weekdays you can often go blocks without seeing a single person on the sand or in the water.

The reason for this is a simple lack of access. The only parking is at hard-to-find metered street spots and in one public lot at the end of Washington by the Venice Pier. It is difficult to reach the sand any other way; the bike path turns away from the beach at Washington and, although the coast is lined with houses, apartments and condos for its entire 26-block length in Marina del Rey, there is no sidewalk.

★ TIP

Cross-streets are easy to find along Pacific Avenue: beginning a block south of Washington, the streets are named alphabetically and nautically: Anchorage, Buccaneer, Catamaran and so forth to Westwind and Yawl.

Great numbers of the hoi polloi crowd the boardwalk in Venice, tramping along noisily in front of the houses and apartments at the edge of the sand. The bike path, 20 feet farther out, further clutters up the sight lines of those who live there. The people south of Washington Boulevard didn't want everyone who comes out to get a breath of the ocean walking and talking in front of *their* places of abode. Every time it is proposed that either the bike path or the boardwalk be continued down the beach to the channel, the residents have blocked it, and they are successful largely because they have a potent ally.

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE BEACH

The most politically powerful residents of Marina del Rey's beach are not the Yuppies, Buppies and Dinks who live here year-round. Rather, it is a group of several hundred seasonal residents who fly up from Central and South America each year starting in mid-April, and stay only until August. They are the endangered **California least terns**.

The small, glossy-black, gray and white birds, called "least" because they are the smallest of the tern species worldwide, each year head for the beach north of the Marina del Rey harbor inlet. They have one goal: finding a mate. After a lively aerial courting ritual, the birds couple up and the female lays up to three eggs in a simple nest in the sand.

Once the eggs are laid, the California Fish and Game Service puts up a "chick fence" around the nesting area, not only to keep humans out but to

prevent the hatchlings from wandering away from the protected area.

The folks who live along here are protective of and grateful to the terns, and often join the volunteers who help guard the tiny birds from crows who try to steal the eggs. Whenever there is a proposal to extend the walkway down this beach, locals always point out that would increase human activity here and further endanger this already endangered species.

The terns have been coming back to this same spot, probably for thousands of years, because of its proximity to Balloña Lagoon Marine Preserve channel (just south of the marina's main channel), where they snatch anchovies, sardines and other small creatures from the shallow waters to feed their chicks. Unfortunately, LA's government is in the process of allowing a huge commercial development to be built that will destroy most of those ancient wetlands.

If you are in this area between mid-April and August and would like to volunteer to help guard the least terns for a period of time, phone Doug Korthof at ☎ 562-430-2495. You'll find more information about the project at www.lawetlands.org/leastern.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Another enemy of the least tern is the **peregrine falcon**. We have seen a pair of falcons on top of the tallest building in Marina del Rey, at Admiralty and Mindanao ways, only a few minutes' flight from the least terns' beach. Ironically, the falcon was endangered itself and was reintroduced into the LA area in a successful effort to increase its numbers. It was removed from the endangered list only a few years ago.

Mother's Beach

Also called Marina Beach, it is at the inland end of Basin D, with access from Admiralty Way and Via Marina. The sand curves around the basin, with no boat slips and no moving boats permitted at the end so there is an expanse of calm, safe water. It is a place mothers like to bring children, hence the name. There is parking and public restrooms, and a place to get snacks. Sounds perfect, right? Not so fast...

Unfortunately, this swimming area is inside a 6,000-boat marina, so tidal action is limited, and the water is full of gas, engine oil, paint and other pollutants. Even though Heal the Bay's latest test gave it a good dry-weather score, other tests over many years have repeatedly shown problems.

It is an easy place to get to, and has no rough surf to frighten small children. But you might want to make sure no one swallows any water. Young children and the elderly are most susceptible to waterborne bacteria and viruses, and it can take only one exposure to get sick. Symptoms can show up a day or two after exposure, usually in the form of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections.

WARNING!

Many people like to collect mussels from the rocks in the beach communities. At certain times of the year, toxins found in mussels along this coast can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning, which affects the central nervous system. There is no antidote, and cooking the shellfish will not destroy the toxin. Sport harvesting of mussels is quarantined from May 1 to October 31 along the entire coast of California. Clams are quarantined at some times in some areas. Call the Biotoxin Information Hotline, ☎ 800-553-4133, to hear a recorded update.

Bike Trails

Bike riding is popular in Marina del Rey because everything is flat, there are interesting views everywhere and, except for one long stretch of Washington Boulevard and a short stretch of Fiji Way, riders are not sharing space with cars. Bike rentals cost from $4 to $7.50 an hour, $10-$20 per day; skates are about $5 an hour, $12 per day. Here are a few places that provide rentals:

Bike & Skate Rentals, 4175 Admiralty Way (across from Marina Beach Marriott Hotel), ☎ 310-306-3332.

Marina del Rey Hotel Gift Shop (bike rentals), 13534 Bali Way, ☎ 310-301-8167 or 800-882-4000.

Venice Pier Bike Shop (bike rentals), 27 Washington Boulevard, ☎ 310-301-4011.

South of Fisherman's Village

There is a water stop by some palms, 2.1 miles from the starting place. Another one is farther along at 4.1 miles from the start.

This ride takes you from Marina del Rey south to Manhattan Beach; it is 7.3 miles one-way.

Start at Fisherman's Village, or anywhere along the bike path in the marina. Follow Fiji Way south for .2 mile to its end, then proceed another .1 mile to the fence along Balloña Creek. Pass through the fence – to the left is the Balloña Creek Bikeway, and the Balloña Wetlands are across the creek; turn right along the levee beside the creek. Pass the UCLA crew boathouse. Ride along the levee to a small bridge; cross and continue west down the other side to where the path swings south down the strand. The trail goes by Del Rey Lagoon and Del Rey Lagoon Park, then on down to the beach. From here on it is all beach and ocean. Continue south .7 mile, pass a playground area with sculpture; .5 mile farther on you will be passing under the busy LAX flight path.

DID YOU KNOW?

About 50 of the 6,000 boats in the marina are live-aboards. Most are power- or sailboats, but you will see an occasional well-appointed houseboat. Strict regulations make sure they are seaworthy, and have a working engine capable of propelling them, although most never leave the dock.

Another .2 mile farther on, you'll see bluffs to your left; this is a historic spot where the sport of hang-gliding was largely developed. Stopped for safety reasons, according to local government, they are now being used again for this sport.

The beach here is El Segundo. South of the power station it is El Porto Beach. You will see "Volleyball City" around the foot of Rosecrans Avenue. You are now 6.1 miles from the starting point; the Manhattan Beach Pier is straight ahead.

North of Fisherman's Village

From Marina del Rey to Venice Pier it is 2.7 miles one way. Beginning at Fisherman's Village, the route goes north alongside Fiji Way, then crosses Fiji into the boat storage and repair area. As you cross Mindanao Way, a short side path leads to Burton Chace Park. Cross Bali Way next (these are dead-end streets, not heavily trafficked). You'll pass boat yards and parking lots while skirting the basins off the main channel. Go by the fine little Marina del Rey County Library at Bali and Admiralty. Cross busy Admiralty Way into Admiralty Park, a long, narrow green strip alongside the street, where there is a fitness trail.

The lighthouse in Fisherman's Village is not used for navigation.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Marina del Rey Public Library, 4533 Admiralty Way, ☎ 310-821-3415, has the one of the largest and best collections of boating- and sea-related books in Southern California.

The water level of the flood control basin, which some call "The Duck Pond," varies each time you see it because it is tidal. It is the last remnant of the original Balloña Wetlands in this area.

When you reach the fenced-in Oxford Flood Control Basin, the bike path leaves the park to follow its eastern edge. On the other side of the basin is Washington Boulevard. Cross the boulevard, turn left and head toward the ocean along Washington. After several long blocks you'll pass over the Venice Grand Canal, and there, at the foot of Washington, is the Venice Pier. Turn right here to follow the bike path up the beach. Windward Avenue and the heart of the Venice boardwalk are a bit more than 0.5 mile farther north, if you wish to push on.

Boat Charters

Taking a boat down the main channel and out through the breakwater into the Pacific is a great way to spend a day, or even just a few hours of an afternoon. Simply renting a kayak, electric boat or canoe to tour the marina and the various basins at leisure can be a lot of fun. When we kept our sailboat docked at the marina, we would go over in the late afternoon with some appetizers and a bottle of wine and just poke around, looking at all the boats – from little 14-footers up to 100 feet of palatial yacht.

MARINA BOAT RENTALS
13719 Fiji Way
Fisherman's Village
☎ 310-574-2822
www.boats4rent.com

Tom York has a wide variety of watercraft for rent: powerboats, sailboats, kayaks, electric boats and one canoe. These are not big yachts; the powerboats range up to 19 feet, the sailboats to 30 feet. (You must demonstrate the ability to handle sailboats 22 feet and above.) The boats are docked in the main channel right in front of Fisher-

man's Village. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, hours are 9am-8pm daily; reserving ahead is advised in season. The rest of the year he's open 10am-6pm.

BOATING TIPS

If you take a sailboat or powerboat out, here are a few suggestions from the Coast Guard.

- File a **float plan**. Tell someone on shore where you are going and when you plan to leave and return.
- Wear a **life jacket**. See there is one on board for each person.
- Check your boat and equipment. make sure **fire extinguishers**, **running lights**, and **radio** (if you have one) are working before you cast off.
- Bring a **compass** and **signaling device** such as a whistle, horn or mirror.
- **Avoid alcohol**. If anything happens you want your wits about you. Do not drink outside the breakwater; wait until you return.
- Monitor **weather conditions**. Check the forecast, keep an eye out for changes.

For more safety tips, go to the US Coast Guard's Web site at www.uscgboating.org.

BEWARE!

Renting a sailboat here is great sport. You should know, though, that the entrance/exit from the main channel at the south end of the breakwater is usually silted up, unless the government has recently been cajoled into paying to have it cleared out once again. Ask at the dock before you sail away.

Harbor Tours

JUST FUN STUFF TOURS
Fisherman's Village
13755 Fiji Way
☎ 310-577-6660
www.justfunstuff.net

This company offers a 40-minute boat ride around the harbor. In summer, tours leave the dock every hour from noon to 5pm, daily; in winter, tours are Saturday and Sunday, 12 to 4pm only. Adults, $10; seniors (65+), $8; kids two to 12, $6; infants, $2. Get tickets 15 minutes ahead of time. There is also a sunset champagne cruise in summer, which is even more fun if you like the bubbly; Friday and Saturday, 7 to 8:30pm, $25; reservations required.

Picnics

Chace Park, at the end of Mindanao Way, off Admiralty Way between Basins G and H, is a pleasant place to enjoy a picnic. Get a table with a view and you'll see boats of every type in their slips and going by in the main channel.

Where to get Picnic Food

CHACE PARK FOOD CONCESSION
☎ 213-739-9913

The standard park fare includes hamburgers, hot dogs, turkey-burgers, veggie-burgers, ice cream sodas... you get the idea. The stand is open seven days in summer; weekends only in winter.

MR. PICKLES DELI
13354 Washington Boulevard
☎ 310-822-7777

There are tables at Mr. Pickles as well as take-out.

This deli and kosher market is about three blocks east of Lincoln, in a little corner strip mall; it is officially in Culver City – this is Culver City's shoestring strip that is

two miles long and only 200 feet wide, with this part embedded deep into Marina del Rey.

The moment we step inside we always have the feeling that this is the cleanest place we have ever been. Everything glistens – the walls, the floors, the refrigerator cases. And the food is wonderfully fresh. Soups, knishes, lots of good, freshly made salads, corned beef, pastrami, brisket sandwiches, and of course pickles, lox, whitefish and herring, along with cookies and pastries.

Yosef Beit-Halahmi, the owner who looks a lot like Zero Mostel with a beard, is French by way of Tunisia, which explains the tasty Tunisian salads that are sometimes on hand. No beer or wine. Mr. Pickles is open Tuesday-Thursday and Sunday, 11am-9pm; Monday, 11am-6pm; Friday, 8:30am-4pm; closed Saturday. Parking is in front in the little mall.

After Dark

The first time we stayed in Marina del Rey we came out to spend a weekend at the Marina del Rey Hotel, which is at the end of Bali Way, right on the main channel. We looked down from our balcony and saw lights glowing from the windows of half the boats docked in the slips below us and thought, "There are people living in all those boats. What a romantic life that must be!"

Much later we discovered that most small boats tied at a dock where they can plug into shore electricity leave a light burning for heat, not light. It is to fight the mold that develops from constant moisture in the air.

In fact, it turns out, the vast majority of boats docked at the marina never go anywhere. Either people don't have time to take them out, or they just use them for occasional entertaining.

The Marina is not a hot destination after dark. Most of those who are out and about are seated in restaurants, eating and drinking. There are a few exceptions.

Concerts

FISHERMAN'S VILLAGE
Lighthouse Plaza
13755 Fiji Way
☎ 310-823-5411 (recorded information)

Free concerts featuring local bands with a wide variety of styles and content: pop rock, rock, jazz, smooth jazz, Latin, Latin reggae, R&B and funk are held year-round, Saturday and Sunday, 2 to 5pm.

Music & Dancing

BRENNAN'S
4089 Lincoln Boulevard
☎ 310-821-6622

Brennan's is a nicely raucous joint. They have live music Wednesday-Saturday, but their big claim to fame are the turtle races every Thursday at 9pm. The patrons shout and cheer and have a great time, but we have never heard the turtles say they are enjoying it. No cover.

BURTON CHACE PARK
13650 Mindanao Way
☎ 310-305-9545

From July to August, free twilight summer concerts (7-9pm) alternate between **Summer Symphonies** (Thursdays) and **Pop Saturdays**. Past performers have included Monica Mancini, The Buddy Rich Big Band and James Darren. There is plenty of parking at $2 for the evening. Lot 4, at Mindanao and Admiralty Way, is close at hand. If that fills up, Lot 5 is one block away at Bali and Admiralty. Plan to come early and have a picnic in the park; the Chace Park Food Concession, ☎ 213-739-9913, offers a special menu for the concerts. Order ahead and your picnic will be waiting for you. Bring your own wine or beer.

TONY P'S DOCKSIDE GRILL
4445 Admiralty Way
☎ 310-823-4534

Live swing bands play here Saturday nights, and there is dancing in a big, boozy, noisy room separated from the dining room. Friday nights there's a DJ, but it is still a place to go dancing. The music starts at 9pm; there's no cover charge if you have dinner; or $7 at door.

Venice

We were in England a dozen years ago, turned on the telly in the hotel room – and watched a documentary about roller-skating in Venice. A few years ago, in Italy, we met a couple who asked where we were from. Once we had cleared up the confusion about *which* Venice, the husband immediately exclaimed, "Oh, yes! Roller skates!"

We hastened to assure them there was more to our little Eden-by-the-sea than in-line skating. After all, Venice is where skateboards were developed, too.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Venice drew many silent film stars. Fatty Arbuckle, Clara Bow, Charlie Chaplin, Tom Mix and Rudolph Valentino all had beach houses here.

Venice was the city's fun destination during both the first and last decades of the last century. For 15 years after the city was created people flocked here by the thousands every week: Venice was the most spectacular thing Los Angeles had ever seen. After a long period of decline and decay it is only in the last 20 years that the area has become known world-wide as a "must-see" destination for travelers.

History

Venice owes everything to a man named **Abbot Kinney**. He was wealthy, an heir to a cigarette fortune, but he wanted to do something more in life, something bigger. He wanted to bring culture to Los Angeles.

Venice was first known as the "Playland of the Pacific."

Around the turn of the century Kinney was in business with two real estate developers; their corporation owned nearly all the land between what is now Pico Boulevard in Santa Monica and Marina del Rey, including four miles of seashore. While the northern part, which became Ocean Park, could be sold as prime beachfront lots, the southern half was mostly marsh.

When Kinney and his partners disagreed on how to develop the land, they decided to divide it between them. They flipped a coin, and Kinney won the toss, but surprisingly he took the marshland.

But Kinney had a plan. He had been to Italy and he dreamed of creating another city just like Venice, with canals where gondolas would drift under arched bridges; where artists, musicians and intellectuals would create a cultural renaissance just 20 miles from downtown Los Angeles. And, of course, to everyone who was inspired to live in this new paradise, he would sell a lot to build on.

There are now three miles of canals in Venice.

Kinney dug eight miles of canals; there was a Grand Canal that ran from what is now Marina del Rey to the traffic circle at Windward Avenue, with other canals branching off. What is now the traffic circle was the Grand Lagoon.

Windward Avenue, the heart of his creation, was lined with Italian Renaissance buildings with arched colonnades. At the foot of Windward a long pier thrust out into the ocean. There was the famous Ship Café at the pier, and a huge indoor "saltwater plunge," a swimming pool, next to it on the beach.

On July 4, 1905, over 40,000 visitors came to opening day, and that night marveled as 17,000 electric lights all sparkled on at once. A private railroad car stood by for two days and nights while Sarah Bernhardt sang on the pier. There were lecturers and musicians. But the people of Los Angeles mostly came for the rides. Originally there were

only a few, as Kinney wanted to improve and uplift people, but he gave in. He built a roller coaster, chute-the-chutes and a miniature train. Venice became the biggest attraction on the coast, and people bought lots to build simple weekend or summer beach houses.

LIVING IN VENICE

We live in Venice, near the beach. Our sandy lot is 30 feet wide, and the houses are close together. The original handwritten deed dated 1905, when the lot was first sold, tells us that we cannot "sell alcohol or keep cattle or pigs" on the property, and that we must build a structure costing at least $500. As we are law-abiding citizens, we don't have even one cow or pig, and we managed to spend more than $500 when we built our house. What gives the area much of its charm is that many streets are only eight feet wide and are strictly "walking streets," with no auto traffic.

Early maps show that the walk alongside the beach was originally named Broad Walk.

The Sporting Life

The automobile was new and auto racing became a national craze just after the turn of the century when Abbot Kinney brought daredevil Barney Oldfield, the king of the racing drivers, to Venice for a series of races. The street that parallels Ocean Front Walk one block inland is still named Speedway for that reason.

In 1913 Kinney built the Venice Baseball Park at what is now the intersection of Abbot Kinney and Venice boulevards. He brought a minor league team from Vernon, a small town southeast of downtown Los Angeles. The opening game was against the Chicago White Sox, who won 7 to 4. The ballpark lasted only a few years. Apparently the problem was that while Los Angeles was dry, Vernon was wet and the games were played at 10:30 Sunday mornings when the Venice Tigers still had hangovers.

The ballpark was razed in 1916 when the Crawford and Faunders Flying Field was built on the same southwest corner. The stunt pilots staged exhibition flights featuring

plane-to-plane wing-walking, and later flew in *Wings* (1927) and *The Dawn Patrol* (1930). Today you will see some one-story apartments and a small commercial building on that corner.

The End of an Era

Nothing is ever perfect; Adam and Eve were probably slapping at mosquitoes. In Kinney's case, winter storms damaged the pier, which had to be rebuilt several times; the canals had problems with drainage; and narrow streets and bridges made access difficult for the increasing number of cars. But despite obstacles, for 15 years Venice was the brightest, liveliest and most popular destination for Angelenos out to have fun.

Kinney died in 1920. The pier burned down one month later. With Prohibition, speakeasies moved into Venice (there are still basements that were speakeasies, and a tunnel under the Town House on Windward was used to smuggle booze in from the beach).

The remaining Venice Canals, difficult for some to find, are from Washington to Venice boulevards, just east of Pacific Avenue.

Venice's original high moral standards had been slipping for some time; now they went into free-fall. The city treasurer stole $20,000 from the city, which teetered on the edge of bankruptcy. In 1925 a majority voted to let Los Angeles take over. Then oil was discovered and oil derricks sprouted everywhere, with no thought to the environment.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Venice once had gondolas imported from Italy, along with singing gondoliers to pole the boats along in the shallow water.

The city of Los Angeles was determined to fill in the canals, regarding them a nuisance and an impediment to auto traffic. In 1929 the canals in northern Venice were filled in; there are several stories about why it stopped there. Our favorite is that the contractor took the rest of

the money and ran off to Brazil, thus saving the canals that are left.

During the Depression, Venice was pretty much forgotten, except for the rebuilt pier, which had a few rides, a lot of carny games and a ballroom, where bands like the Dorsey Brothers and Lawrence Welk played. In the late '50s the beatniks brought Venice into public view again, and in the '60s the hippies were attracted by the cheap rent and tolerant atmosphere. Today the atmosphere is still tolerant but the rents are way up.

Bringing It Up to Date

During the 1960s and '70s three groups formed the majority of Venice's population. The first was senior citizens living on social security, many of whom were Jewish, whose focal point was Bay Cities Synagogue at 505 Ocean Front Walk. Anthropologist Barbara Myerhoff made a well-regarded film, *Number Our Days*, about the Bay Cities congregation. Hippies living on air, and artists living for art, were the others. All of them co-existed very well. In the '80s and '90s, as Venice became gentrified, all three groups were largely forced out by skyrocketing prices.

Reyner Banham, author of Los Angeles – The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, in 1971 called it "romantically blighted Venice."*

WARNING!

Because Venice's older buildings have inadequate parking, many residents park on the streets, leaving little space for visitors. On weekends, the few parking lots often fill up before noon.

In the early 1970s Venice was the only place on California's 1,000-mile-long, expensive coastline where poor people could live at the beach. That changed as those living inland realized that there was, miraculously, one place left in Los Angeles with both a great climate and low housing prices. Some were also attracted by the live-and-let-live atmosphere. As those with more money moved in, the ones

with less were forced out. So there went the artists and a lot of the atmosphere.

We moved to Venice in the mid '70s when the smog in the San Fernando Valley got to be too much for us. At the time, Venice showed up in the newspapers only for violence and drug dealings, so much so that for years friends asked us, "Aren't you afraid to live there?" Actually the violence was (and still is) confined to an area called Oakwood, which is north of Venice Boulevard and east of Electric Avenue, several blocks from the beach, and has never affected the rest of the area. Even Oakwood is safer now. The biggest worry there now is that Oakwood's population will also be forced out by gentrification.

The better-off liberals who moved to Venice were called "afluhips."

Venice is now known all over the world primarily for Ocean Front Walk, a.k.a. **The Boardwalk**. Its revival began in the '70s with hippies selling pipes and pot-smoking paraphernalia, home-crafted jewelry and leather goods. Musicians played and put out hats to collect tips, comedians told stories, and tarot card readers set up card tables.

A new development has been the very welcome French influx. There is a growing expatriate community of artists, writers and those working in film – there is quite a French contingent in animation, especially at Disney. They tell us that those from the south of France are particularly drawn to Venice, which is as much like the Mediterranean as you can find in Los Angeles.

The Venice "boardwalk" is a misnomer that disappoints some visitors – it is actually a paved walkway.

What that has added to our life here are places like Normandie Bakery & Coffee on the first block of Washington, the bakery Le Pain du Jour near Pico and Lincoln, and Lilly's French Café and Slave, a clothing store, both on Abbot Kinney Boulevard. And, for all the French families, there is Ecole Clair Fontaine, a preschool. Alas, for all the Americans who would love to have their small children grow up speaking French, there is a waiting list a kilomètre long.

Getting Here

From LAX

By Car

Take Sepulveda Boulevard north to Lincoln Boulevard (Highway 1), and curve left. Stay with Lincoln through Marina del Rey to Washington Boulevard. If you keep going straight, everything from there to Rose Avenue is Venice; if you turn left on Washington and go to the last traffic light you'll come to Pacific Avenue, which parallels the ocean. Street parking, a parking lot and the Venice Pier are a block farther on at the end of Washington.

By Bus

Take the free shuttle to Lot C, then get on the Santa Monica Big Blue Bus #3 to Lincoln and Venice boulevards. Ask for a transfer to Metro Bus #33, which goes west on Venice Boulevard to Main Street.

By Shuttle

Shuttle service is available from **Prime Time Shuttle**, ☎ 800-733-8267, www.primetimeshuttle.com; and **Super Shuttle**, ☎ 310-782-6600 or 323-775-6600, www.supershuttle.com. Approximate fare is $15, plus $9 for a second passenger.

By Taxi

Taxi fare to this area runs $17-$20, depending on traffic, plus $2.50 airport fee. Try **My Taxi**,☎ 800-4 MY-TAXI (469-8294); or **Venice Checker Yellow Cab**, ☎ 310-306-7440.

From Downtown Los Angeles

By Car

From Downtown Los Angeles, especially during rush hour, the easiest route is to head straight out Venice Boulevard to its end.

Take any of the main westbound streets (except Sunset Boulevard) to Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica, and turn left; as you go south, the street name changes to Neilson, then Pacific Avenue. Continue to Venice Boulevard, where you turn right to the beach parking lot. You can also take the Santa Monica Freeway (10) west from downtown, exit at the Fourth Street off-ramp, and turn left onto Broadway to get to Ocean Avenue.

There is a public parking lot at Venice Boulevard and Pacific Avenue, and another one a block farther west at the end of Venice Boulevard on the beach. The parking lots on the beach (one is at the end of Rose Avenue, Venice's northern border with Santa Monica, and the other is at the end of Washington Boulevard, the southern border with Marina del Rey), are usually less crowded. Prices vary from $3 per day in the early morning to as much as $14 on a packed holiday afternoon.

There are a few private lots: Angel's gas station at Pacific Avenue and Venice Way has one, and there is a small lot across the street. Their prices are usually lower than the public lots. There is a lot at Speedway and Market Street, one block north of Windward Avenue, and two more farther north at Speedway and Thornton.

A bit farther away are two DASH lots (Downtown Area Shuttle Hops – does everything have to be an acronym?) with free bus service to the beach. The lots are at 4551 Glencoe Avenue, Marina del Rey (Glencoe is off Washington Boulevard two blocks east of Lincoln Boulevard); and at 4220 Admiralty Way at Palawan. These are open daily, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, 11am to 7pm. Parking is $2 all day.

WARNING!

If you're parking on the street, observe the hours posted on the red "No Parking for street cleaning" signs. In most areas here, cleanings occur on Monday or Tuesday.

By Bus

Metro Bus #33 runs south on Spring Street (#333 is added during rush hours); catch it at 4th, 6th or 7th streets. It goes west out Venice Boulevard all the way to the beach. If you are downtown west of Pershing square, take #60 running south on Flower Street; at 7th Street it turns and connects with #33. Transfer (75¢) and continue as before.

Getting Around

The only reasons anyone comes to Venice are the beach and the boardwalk. The beach is great for its entire length (we are not saying the same for the water quality). Most of the Boardwalk/Ocean Front Walk action is centered at Windward Avenue, a few blocks south to Venice Boulevard and a dozen blocks north. If you arrive at the pier at the end of Washington Boulevard and want to see the crowds and the street performers, walk north a half-mile (a very nice walk along the beachfront). If you are parked at the north end by Rose Avenue you will have to walk south quite a ways.

Who Lives Here?

Venice is no longer a community of celebrities the way it was in the days of silent pictures. But a few are still attracted, such as Lauren Ambrose, who plays the daughter on HBO's *Six Feet Under*. Orson Bean, comic, Broadway actor, game show panelist and a permanent character on *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman* of a few years ago, started with one cottage on one of the canals. After he married ac-

Dogs are not allowed off the leash on Venice beach.

tress Alley Mills of *The Wonder Years* and *Dr. Quinn*, they gradually added three more cottages next door to them, so they now have a compound.

Anjelica Huston lives here with her husband, sculptor Robert Graham, who also has his studio in Venice. Graham did the torsos in front of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games, the Duke Ellington sculpture in New York's Central Park and the Charlie Parker memorial in Kansas City. He recently sculpted the massive main doors for the new Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in downtown Los Angeles.

Dudley Moore (*10, Arthur*) lived for many years in his beachfront home and sometimes played piano in 22 Market Street, the Venice restaurant he owned with Liza Minnelli and producer Tony Bill (Bill still has his offices across the street from the restaurant, which is now the Globe; see page 404).

On Location

Venice practically crawls with film crews. You see the town on the screen over and over, whenever the star comes out of an ancient hotel onto Ocean Front Walk. If it's a film noir the scene will be set at dawn and a few carefully placed newspapers will blow forlornly along the misty, deserted walkway. In the comedies the hero emerges to find bikini-clad blondes roller-skating nonchalantly by in the bright sunlight.

When you see the big white equipment trucks and smaller white dressing-room trailers you will know some company is shooting. If it is a big shoot that is going to take a while there will also be a white commissary tent.

Venice is one of the most-used filming locations in Los Angeles.

Because a lot of space is needed to park everything for a big shoot, look at the large parking lots at the ends of Rose, Venice and Washington. The two parking lots back from the beach are most used: the one between North and South Venice from Pacific Avenue back to the next street, Dell, and the one from Dell back to Venice Way/Ocean Avenue (the street name changes here).

Even if you don't see equipment trucks, there are other clues to the presence of a production crew; you might see a

hand-painted cardboard sign on a lamp post, with just a word and an arrow, like "WIND," or "CHARLIE." That is shorthand for the name of the picture being shot. Follow the arrows, which will lead to where the crew is parked.

Some pictures have used Venice extensively for exteriors, like *Bounce*, *The Doors* and *L.A. Story*. *White Men Can't Jump* was shot here at the basketball courts on the beach, as well as *Baywatch*, which has used all the beaches along the coast at one time or another.

The most famous picture ever shot here was Orson Welles' *Touch of Evil* (1958). The sinister alleys, the shadowy, threatening arcades, stagnant canals and brooding buildings all lent a prophetically ominous atmosphere. The three-story stucco building on the northwest corner of Windward and Pacific, built 90 years ago as a hotel and apartments, was prominently featured.

The building on the corner of Windward that was used in Touch of Evil *is now the Venice Beach Hostel.*

Other notable film spots include **Hinano**, 15 Washington Boulevard. It's a bar, the kind with sawdust on the floor, and is named after a Tahitian beer. The original owner made his way to Tahiti on a 32-foot sailboat in 1962, fell in love with the local beer and persuaded the brewery to let him bring back some brew and use the name. Scenes from *The China Syndrome* and *Falling Down* were shot here, and Jim Morrison carved his name on the wall somewhere. The place is also famous for having the best hamburgers in town. We don't know about best, since we haven't tasted all the rest, but they are pretty good.

Hinano is on the corner of Speedway, a few doors stagger from the beach.

Venice High School, 13000 Venice Boulevard, is not really in Venice but just over the border in Mar Vista, about two miles from the beach. The school's original location was in Venice, in Abbot Kinney's original bathhouse on the Grand Lagoon in 1910. Physical education classes consisted of rowing boats up and down the canals. The school was moved in 1914 when the bathhouse burned down.

The building's classic '50s exterior has been used in many films, but Venice High is famous for two things, only one of which is a film. It was the high school seen in *Grease*; John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John and Stockard Channing spent a lot of time there in 1977, and Olivia Newton-John showed up for a *Grease*-themed Homecoming a few years ago. The white statue of a slim young woman in front of the main building on Venice Boulevard was sculpted by

Harry Winebrenner in 1923, who styled it partly after Botticelli's Birth of Venus painting. The ninth-grade student who modeled for the figure was Myrna Williams, later known as movie star Myrna Loy.

Best Places to Stay

Hotels

You don't have many choices if you want to make Venice your headquarters during your stay. There are two hotels, but there also a B&B, one of the few in all of Los Angeles.

The accommodations price scale can be found on page 39.

THE INN AT VENICE BEACH
327 Washington Boulevard
Venice, CA 90291
☎ 310-821-2557, 800-828-0688
www.innatvenicebeach.com
Inexpensive-Moderate

A neat, small hotel three blocks from the pier and beach and almost next door to the Grand Canal. Rooms are a decent size, parking is free and there is complimentary continental breakfast. A modest, nice place.

MARINA PACIFIC (BEST WESTERN)
1697 Pacific Avenue
Venice, CA 90291
☎ 310-452-1111, 800-421-8151
www.mphotel.com
Moderate

This place, between Pacific Avenue and Speedway, has been here a long time. Not fancy, but a recent renovation has made it very nice. We went into an ocean-view room the other day, opened the drapes, and there were all the trucks and dressing-room trailers for a picture that was being shot under our noses. The clerk told us another pic was to start shooting on their rooftop sundeck, which has great views, in a few days.

Some rooms have kitchenettes, and there are suites available. All have a small refrigerator; breakfast is included

and parking is $5 per day. The free shuttle to Santa Monica or Marina del Rey is handy. Higher summer rates start May 25. Reservations about a month in advance are needed in summer. For anyone wanting to see all the Venice action, the location just off Windward overlooking the beach can't be improved.

Bed & Breakfast

THE VENICE BEACH HOUSE
15 Thirtieth Avenue
Venice, CA 90291
☎ 310-823-1966, fax 310-823-1842
Inexpensive-Moderate

A big comfortable house built when Abbot Kinney was building his canals, the Venice Beach House has become a really nice nine-room inn for people who aren't all that crazy about staying in 400-room hotels where nobody knows your name. In the rooms are four-poster beds, rocking chairs and throw rugs. Breakfast features freshly squeezed juice and homemade breads with apple butter, and coffee in a sunny alcove or in your own room. In the evening guests share refreshments in front of a cozy winter fire or on the veranda at sunset.

Venice Beach House is only a block from Washington Boulevard's shops and restaurants.

The Inn is only a few steps from the beach, and there are bicycles to borrow for a long ride down the bike path. A few of the rooms share a bathroom, some are suites. Reserve as soon as possible; after all, this is one of Los Angeles' few B&Bs.

Best Places to Eat

Please, sir, I want some more. – Oliver Twist

There are four restaurants just steps from the beach between Pacific Avenue and Ocean Front Walk: two on North Venice Boulevard, one on Market Street (a short block north of Windward Avenue) and the fourth on Dudley Avenue (a short block south of Rose Avenue at the north end of Venice next to Santa Monica). We highly recommend all for excellent food and good star-watching.

Fine Dining

★★ 5 DUDLEY
5 Dudley Avenue
☎ 310-399-6678
California-continental
Expensive

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

This tiny, but very good place is just two doors off the boardwalk, next to a funky art gallery. It is about 15 feet wide and perhaps 20 feet deep, there are only 10 tables inside and four out on the sidewalk for a total of 36 guests tops, so when celebrities are here, as they often are, they definitely are not hidden off in a dark corner. Reservations are strongly advised. There is no bar; only beer and wine are served. It is currently open for dinner Tuesday-Sunday, 6-10pm, and in the summer for lunch, Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2:30pm, but call ahead to confirm times.

JOE'S
1023 Abbot Kinney Boulevard
☎ 310-399-5811
French-California cuisine
Moderate-Expensive

The fare put out here has been described as the most sophisticated kind of comfort food. What better could be said? Here is a starter: "pistachio-crusted goat cheese, bartlett pears, red oak leaf lettuce, pomegranate vinaigrette." And an entrée: "tagine of monkfish with almond couscous, saffron broth, cherry tomato and preserved lemon salad." (Never having heard of "tagine," we had to ask to find out it is a clay crock used in Morocco to cook food and carry it in the desert.) There are four-course prix fixe menus at $38 and $48 as well as an à la carte menu.

No matter how new and trendy the restaurant, many still play 60-year-old Billie Holiday records for a romantic background sound.

The restaurant is in an old house dating from the days when Abbot Kinney himself was around. Open for lunch Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2:30pm; and for brunch (not a buffet) Saturday and Sunday, 11am-2:30pm. Dinner is served Tuesday-Thursday and Sunday, 6-10pm; Friday and Saturday until 11pm. Reservations are necessary for dinner Friday and Saturday. Abbot Kinney Boulevard an-

gles off Washington Boulevard a dozen blocks from the beach and runs north to Main.

★★ THE CANAL CLUB

2025 Pacific Avenue
☎ 310-823-3878
Asian-Californian-Mexican
Moderate-Expensive

It is like several different places all in one: a sushi bar in the center front, a dining room with a high, exposed-brick wall to one side, a bar with tables and couches on the other side. And a palapa, a South Pacific bamboo and palm hut, hanging from the ceiling over all. Take your pick.

There is miso soup, sushi, a Chinese duck salad and shiitake sauce on the salmon for the Asian; and tortilla soup, guacamole and chipotle marinated albacore to take care of the Mexican influence. But mostly it is solid steak, chops and chicken. When we drop in it is usually at happy hour for the cut-rate beer and little bar dishes. The address is Pacific Avenue, but it is on the corner of North Venice Boulevard and the entrance is on Venice. Open only for dinner, from 5pm to 10pm, Sunday-Tuesday; to 11pm other nights; the bar is open later. Valet parking.

Canal Club is called that because it is a half-block from the end of the Grand Canal.

★★ JAMES' BEACH

60 North Venice Boulevard
☎ 310-823-5396, fax 310-823-5397
New California/American
Moderate-Expensive

This is our neighborhood restaurant (in North Venice, this is almost everyone's neighborhood restaurant). And that is in addition to the Hollywood crowd. The place is pared down to the essentials: stark white walls with a few choice pieces of art by local artists (and remember, Venice is an enclave of art and artists), a long, impressive bar all along one side. Beside it is a patio with heaters for winter and cool beach breezes in summer (the place is only a couple hundred feet from the sand). A pleasing look to it all, down to the famous "potato-chip" chairs, designed by Charles Eames, whose studio was in Venice. At lunch and on weekends there are usually more people on the patio than inside.

James Evans, the owner, wanted to make this "a young Musso & Frank's," and has succeeded nicely. The chef here does classic American food very well. Chicken pot pie, meat loaf, roast beef, Caesar salad. Look for the daily specials.

Dinner nightly; lunch Wednesday-Friday; brunch Saturday and Sunday. There is a late-night menu Thursday-Saturday, 10:30pm to 1am (it is really nice to find something more than a hamburger late at night in this part of town). Valet parking.

★★ GLOBE

72 Market Street
☎ 310-392-8720
American, Italian influenced
Expensive

This location was previously occupied by a restaurant called 72 Market Street, which was owned by Dudley Moore, Liza Minnelli, and producer Tony Bill. The real estate is still owned by Tony Bill but the restaurant is run by Joseph Manzare and Mary Klingbeil (they also own the Globe in San Francisco). The striking interior has been used as a location (for the film *Bounce*, and several commercials). Celebrities are beginning to try it on for size, led by Anjelica Huston, who lives nearby.

Dishes are basically seafood, pasta and meat, with one rotisserie grilled chicken dish. When it comes to appetizers, we heartily recommend the house-smoked salmon on grilled bread with dill crème fraîche. One serving at $9.95 is just right for two people.

The sign on the corner of Pacific and Market reading "72 Market Street" now points to Globe.

Lunch is served Wednesday-Friday, noon-3pm; dinner Tuesday-Saturday, 6pm-midnight; and Sunday, 6-10pm. The bar is open and snacks are available on weekdays, 3-6pm. Market Street is one block north of Windward (toward Santa Monica), between Pacific Avenue and Speedway (toward the beach). Valet parking, $4.

Casual Dining

SIDEWALK CAFE
1401 Ocean Front Walk
☎ 310-399-5547
Sandwiches, salads
Inexpensive

This is where Ron Kovic used to hang out, the kid who joined the Marine Corps and went off to Vietnam, and ended up a paraplegic in a wheelchair for life. Oliver Stone told his story in *Born on the Fourth of July*.

Inside the café there is a loud bar and music at night. Outside is the big attraction: an expansive view of the Boardwalk and the beach as you sit and enjoy a glass of wine or beer and eat a salad. Across the walkway in this section are the tarot card readers, but the best show is really the passing parade of tourists ogling other tourists and thinking how funny they look.

Shopping

Venice is not the place to come for shopping. There is none, except for Ocean Front Walk, where you will find dozens of small stores and stands all selling the same T-shirts and dark glasses. However, if you want to have your skin tattooed or pierced, you can do it here. **Tattoo Asylum**, 64 Windward Avenue, ☎ 310-450-1073, is open Sunday-Thursday, 10am-8pm; Friday and Saturday, 10am-10pm. **Muscle Beach Hair & Nail Salon**, 1811 Ocean Front Walk, ☎ 310-827-9923, does hair wraps and piercing; it's open daily, 10am-7pm. You can also have your fortune told in tarot cards from one of the many "readers" along the block west of Market Street on Ocean Front Walk.

Sunup to Sundown

Farmers' Market

There is a year-round market on Friday mornings, 7-11am, about four blocks inland from the beach on Venice Boulevard at Venice Way.

Recreation

Motorized scooters are banned from the bike path in Venice.

Bicycling and **skating** along the flat bike path allows you to travel along the beach from Venice to Santa Monica without getting on any streets. Technically, skaters are not supposed to use it, but there is no path just for skating. Try one of these shops for rentals: **Rental on the Beach**, 3001 Ocean Front Walk (next to Venice Pier), ☎ 310-396-1959; or **Venice Pier Bike Shop**, 21 Washington Boulevard, ☎ 310-301-4011.

★ TIP

The cement bike path on the beach extends from north of the Santa Monica Pier to the Venice Pier at the foot of Washington Boulevard, a distance of almost three miles.

Get a copy of paddle tennis rules at the Parks & Recreation office on the other side of the weight pen.

Paddle tennis courts are at 20th Avenue at Ocean Front Walk. There are 11 regulation courts where National tournaments are held annually. Open play, no fee or reservations. First-come basis. Racket rentals, 8am-sundown, $5.

Muscle Beach is at 19th Avenue at Ocean Front Walk, ☎ 310-399-2775. The original, legendary Muscle Beach was in Santa Monica. When it went poufft in the 1970s many of the muscle people moved here. Now this is the legendary one. A day pass to use the equipment is $5; monthly memberships are available. The stage behind the weight pen is the location of occasional powerlifting and physique contests; pick up a schedule at the office. The weight pen is open from 8am-sundown.

Basketball courts are at 18th Avenue at Ocean Front Walk. The book *Hoops Nation* (Chris Ballard, Henry Holt & Co.) called this the "most famous outdoor basketball court in the world." And that is not counting the fact that this is the court where *White Men Can't Jump* was shot. There are four courts, but the number one court is where pro players from the Lakers, Clippers and Sparks occasionally show up and join in. That is the court right by Ocean Front Walk, nearest the little building where the office is.

Skateboarding area. Venice is the birthplace of skateboarding; *Dogtown*, a documentary film on the history of skateboarding in Venice and South Santa Monica, follows the development of the sport. However, after the Boardwalk renovation in 2000-01, the skateboarders were left with only this circle, which has a few low curved walls and other areas for grinding. Here you'll see some phenomenal skateboarding and can show off your own skills. The skateboarders still hope to get a larger area of their own built, but because the Coastal Commission has a rule that structures on the beach cannot exceed four feet high, that rules out seven-foot-high Plexiglas dasher boards. Venice Skateboard Association, ☎ 310-392-2179.

There are plans to build a roller hockey rink near the Skate Park.

The **Skate Park** is just a few feet away from the skateboarding area. There are skaters practicing their heel spins and backward glides here every day, but on weekends roller-skaters descend from all over for skate dancing. Everything from disco to pop to hip-hop spins from DJ Blue's boom box.

Gold's Gym, 368 Hampton Drive (Main Street and Abbot Kinney Boulevard), Venice, ☎ 310-392-3005. This is a new building; the old one (now closed) where Arnold Schwarzenegger and many other mythic bodies trained was on Pacific Avenue. Men and women who are serious about sculpting their bodies still come here. You may also see people like fashion model and fitness guru Gabrielle Reece, who is tops in professional beach volleyball. A one-day pass is $20; one week, $50. Hours are Monday-Friday, 4am-midnight; Saturday and Sunday, 5am-11pm. Parking lots are nearby.

IF YOU ARE GOING IN THE WATER...

You should know that in some years lifeguards make more than 2,500 rescues along what they call "Venice North," the stretch of beach from Avenue 23, just south of Venice Boulevard, to the border with Santa Monica – and most of the rescues take place in the seven-block stretch between Avenue 23 and Windward Avenue.

There are rock jetties at either end of that stretch. Water gets trapped in between, and tunnel-like rip currents tear through. People can be standing waist-deep in the surf, or even only knee-deep, when a rip develops, and get swept out to sea moments later. A few years ago one lifeguard made 322 rescues in just 10 weeks of summer. That is why nine lifeguards watch over that one stretch, and two more patrol in a boat beyond the surfline. Enjoy the sun and sand, but when you go into the water, be careful.

Walking Tour

The space between North and South Venice boulevards was originally used by the Pacific Electric rail line, which delivered thousands of beach-goers from downtown Los Angeles each day. Our first walk takes you along crowded and bustling Ocean Front Walk (a.k.a. the Boardwalk).

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

You could get from downtown Los Angeles to Venice quicker in 1920 than you can today, by taking a Red Line rail car, which made the trip in less than 30 minutes.

Along Ocean Front Walk

There are many interesting places along Ocean Front Walk. Start where Ocean Front meets North Venice Boulevard, by the public parking lot. Note that other guidebooks sometimes mention that 517 Ocean Front Walk was once owned by comedian Eddie Cantor. Actually, that building was torn down in the 1980s and replaced by the present brick bungalow that now houses shops.

Jody Maroni's Sausage Kingdom, 2011 Ocean Front Walk, ☎ 310-453-2044, is a take-out place with a few tables and, very possibly, the best sausages in Los Angeles. It is known city-wide and has franchises in a dozen other places, but this is the original. Try a sample of the Polish sausage (beer and smoky flavor), and the Tequila chicken sausage (spicy with jalapeños) before you choose.

Snack food and outside tables are available at 517 Ocean Front Walk.

Tom Mix's House, 1915 Ocean Front Walk. Tom Mix made his first movie for Selig in 1910 in Oklahoma, where he was a sheriff (he was also a Texas Ranger for a few years), but he didn't become a Western star until the '20s, well after William S. Hart and Hoot Gibson. He was a big star, who became really wealthy even in those days when there were no 20-million-dollar paychecks for actors. This stucco, Spanish-style place was his beach house. You can tell by the now-battered architectural detail that it was once a fine place. It is sad to see what it has come down to, although it's hard to see much behind the racks of sunglasses for sale.

The tunnel that once connected the Town House to the beach is now closed.

The **Town House**, 52 Windward Avenue, ☎ 310-392-4040, is a dark, cavernous saloon, though it's only half its original size. It has been here since 1915. During Prohibition it was called Manotti's Buffet. The name was a euphemism, as the buffet conisisted of a chunk of cheese and a bowl of hard-boiled eggs on the bar upstairs where soda and near beer were dispensed; downstairs in the basement was a speakeasy. A tunnel ran from there to the beach. In those days international waters began only three miles offshore (now the rule is 12 miles); boats full of Canadian liquor would wait just beyond the three-mile limit until after dark, then run in under the pier and unload cases of illegal booze that would be carried up the tunnel to Manotti's.

Notice Buster Keaton's face on a workman in the Post Office mural.

Venice Post Office. Turn up Windward Avenue to Main Street and go inside the Post Office on the southwest corner. The mural by Edward Biberton, a WPA Depression project, shows Abbot Kinney and the entire history of Venice.

The **Traffic Circle**, at Windward and Main, is where Kinney's Grand Lagoon was located.

The **Arcades**, buildings on the north side of Windward from Pacific to Speedway with colonnades and arches over the sidewalks, are all that remain of Kinney's original vision.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The Byzantine- and Renaissance-style buildings, with shaded walkways and ornate columns, originally lined both sides of Windward from the Grand Lagoon to Ocean Front Walk and for several blocks up Ocean Front Walk.

The **Venice Beach Hotel** at 25 Windward Avenue was the St. Charles Hotel when this side of the street was solid hotels, one after another, during Venice's early glory years. The mural on the side of the hotel was painted by Terry Schoonhoven when it was still the St. Charles. The view is as it was if you turned around in 1979; sadly, it has faded. Across Speedway was the St. Mark's Hotel, where Orson Welles did most of his shooting for *Touch of Evil* (1958). During the beat and hippie years from the 1950s to the 1970s it was said you could get high on the pot fumes wafting out of the hotel by just passing by on the sidewalk.

A **mural** called Venice Reconstituted is on the west side of the Venice Beach Hotel; you can see it from Speedway. It was done in 1989 by Rip Cronk, and shows the surf, the bay up through Malibu and a representation of Venice's buildings and people. The turbaned in-line skater with the electric guitar is Harry Perry, the best-known Boardwalk habitue (if you meet him, he'll sell you cassettes of his own music). The sidewalk pianist is Berry "The Lion" Gordon. The artist himself is in there somewhere, too.

A LOT FOR A LOT

Surprisingly, neither Beverly Hills nor Bel-Air, with their mansions and movie star homes, have the most expensive real estate in Los Angeles. Venice now has the second-highest per-square-foot land value in Los Angeles County, even though 25 years ago lots here were, excuse us, dirt cheap. The only place more expensive is within the 90402 zip code in Santa Monica.

A few hundred feet up Speedway is **Market Street**, where a **mural** on the parking lot wall depicts a phantasmagoric Venice: Hollywood's blondes wearing sunglasses, Aztecs, and a modern-day scene all morphed together.

TV show tickets are often handed out at the corner of 17th Street and Ocean Front Walk, which will save you going somewhere to get them.

Small World of Books, 1407 Ocean Front Walk, ☎ 310-399-2360 is well known by the many writers who live in this area. The store covers fiction and non-fiction, childrens' literature and poetry, and quite a few books about different aspects of Los Angeles and Venice. Check the schedule of the Mystery Annex at the back for book readings and signings.

The **Waldorf Hotel**, 1219 Ocean Front Walk, a white glazed brick building on the corner, was built in 1914. Stars like Clara Bow and Charlie Chaplin were frequent guests. You see the same elegant brass marquee with white globes, though with more than 85 years of tarnish and dust.

The building off Ocean Front Walk at **17 Park Avenue** was Olivia de Havilland's home in the 1930s.

The first block on **Thornton Avenue** is filled with several interesting and historic houses. At **16 Thornton Avenue**, on the corner of Speedway, is a five-story, hexagonal building where dancer Isadora Duncan lived in the 1920s. The flaking stucco has faded badly. Surely the topmost apartment, with its windows facing the sea and its rooftop patio, must have been hers. Jane Fonda had the upstairs apartment at **18 Thornton Avenue** in the late '60s. When she and Tom Hayden married they lived a few blocks north of here in Ocean Park, and still later moved

to a bigger house in Santa Monica, north of Montana Avenue. That was before she married Ted Turner, who owned the state of Montana.

You'll see a good example of a Craftsman-style house at **39 Thornton Avenue**, where silent film star Fatty Arbuckle lived in the '20s. Arbuckle was a big star, both physically (he weighed more than 250 pounds) and professionally (as a leading comedian), when he was falsely accused of causing the death of Virginia Rappe, a young wannabe-actress, during a three-day drunken party in the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco. The case made headlines and, by the time Arbuckle went through three trials of hung juries and final acquittal, his career and life were effectively ruined. The sturdy porch pillars on the house are granite, rather than the usual wood ones typical of the Craftsman style. The beautiful mullioned windows appear to be original. The second-floor room in front with a wide, wall-to-wall window was a later addition. As you walk back down Thornton toward the ocean take a look at **30 Thornton**. The fascinating architecture of the gray-and-blue-trimmed clapboard building takes advantage of the view and breezes with decks and well-positioned windows at every level and a widow's walk at the top.

All the addresses cited here are private homes. Please do not disturb the owners.

Continuing along Ocean Front Walk to **Rose Avenue**, you'll find the **Ocean View Hotel** at #5. The big building on the corner, white with blue trim, was a deluxe beach hotel in 1926. On May 16 of that year, flamboyant evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson, who led services in her Four Square Church in Echo Park in a long, white satin gown, left her suite, walked across the beach and into the ocean for a swim – and disappeared from sight. Thousands gathered on the beach to pray she would be found. It was a headline story in newspapers nationwide. Finally, although there was no body, she was pronounced dead and an emotional memorial service was held at the beach.

A month later, however, Aimee McPherson miraculously walked out of the Arizona desert, claiming to have escaped from kidnappers. Her return to Los Angeles, where she was greeted by 100,000 rejoicing followers, was a hysterical mob scene. Unfortunately, it was later discovered that she had spent the missing month with her lover. Aimee's

fortunes went downhill after that. The building is now a home for senior citizens.

The Canal Walk

For a charming – and quieter – walk through Venice, explore the streets around the remaining canals.

North Venice Boulevard at **Canal Street**. The Grand Canal, which currently ends here, originally extended along Canal Street, through the space now occupied by a large apartment complex at Mildred Avenue, and on to the Grand Lagoon. The rest of the canals were filled in; only the three miles from here south to Marina del Rey are left.

Take the sidewalk at canal level to South Venice Boulevard, cross the street and descend to **The Grand Canal**. The walk ahead of you is one of the most beautiful in all of Los Angeles. Fortunately for the peace and quiet of the people who live along the canal, few seem to know about it so it is never crowded. In fact, you will usually see only a handful of people between here and Washington Boulevard. Simply stroll along the narrow pathway, enjoying the houses and gardens, and take a few pictures of the ducks and paddleboats against the background of the picturesque arched bridges.

The Grand Canal goes straight from Venice Boulevard to Washington Boulevard. Four other three-block-long canals branch off it to the east, where Eastern Canal connects them all. If you take the right-hand pathway it is a half-mile walk to **Washington Boulevard**. The left path is longer because you will walk along each side canal, cross a bridge, go back down the other side and continue on to the next. Either way is a great walk.

There is no canal-side walkway from Washington Boulevard to the marina, where the Grand Canal starts.

Baja Cantina, 311 Washington Boulevard, the brown wooden building behind the parking lot to your left, is next door to where your canal walk ends. It's a handy place to sit for a bit and have a bottle of Mexican beer or a margarita (they serve huge ones) before starting back. They also have Mexican food, an outdoor patio and several dining rooms inside. It's hugely popular, especially on weekends when you'll end up on a long waiting list for a table.

From here you can either go back the same way, or perhaps explore the side of the canal you didn't visit, or walk down Washington to the right and return to the starting point on Ocean Front Walk.

C&O Trattoria, 31 Washington Boulevard, is another fine place to stop. Sit out at a sidewalk table or in the patio; if you order a glass of the house Chianti, they will bring you a whole bottle, on the honor system (it is only $2.95 a glass). They will also bring a plate of the most addictive just-baked little rolls, which are on the house. If you are still hungry after that, look at the menu, but be warned, the portions are huge!

The Venice Pier

Venice Pier, at the end of Washington, was just rebuilt again a few years ago. All the piers along this coast keep getting knocked out in storms. If you walk out to the end, you will encounter quite a few local fishermen. Because of the levels of pollution in Santa Monica Bay we wouldn't eat anything caught here, but apparently some people do.

There is a public parking lot on the beach at the foot of Washington Boulevard.

There is a good view of the coastline from the end of the pier. Looking north, the tall buildings are downtown Santa Monica. Farther on, where the coast curves west out to the point, is Malibu. To the south, the breakwater a mile down protects the entrance to the Marina del Rey channel; past that you see the planes taking off from LAX (unless there is a Santa Ana wind, in which case they come in over the ocean). Manhattan Beach is next, then Redondo Beach, where there is a breakwater and a small yacht harbor. After that the coast curves out to the west to Palos Verdes Peninsula, which is a point, not a peninsula.

You can see Catalina Island in the Channel past Palos Verdes.

From the foot of the pier walk back up Ocean Front Walk to where you started. The curving bike path parallels the walkway. The few old single-family residences along the way are all from around World War I or earlier, and some of the new apartment and condominium buildings are striking. Or unusual, anyway.

After Dark

THE TOWN HOUSE
52 Windward Avenue
☎ 310-392-4040

We have never seen the Town House without people inside, either to get cool on a hot sunny day or warm when the beach is foggy. In either case, George the bartender, a wonderful storyteller, will keep you entertained with tales of the "old days" while you consume a big 24-ounce bottle (the only size they have) of one of the dozens of brands of beer on hand. Most Saturday nights there is live music and dancing downstairs in the old speakeasy.

★★ **THE CANAL CLUB**
2025 Pacific Avenue
☎ 310-823-3878

The bar is open to midnight on weeknights, until 1am on weekends. Valet parking.

SIDEWALK CAFE
1401 Ocean Front Walk
☎ 310-399-5547

Inside the café is a loud bar where locals congregate. Open Sunday-Friday until 11pm, Saturday to midnight.

Santa Monica

It's better to be looked over than overlooked.
– Mae West, *Belle of the Nineties*

Santa Monica is one of the nicest towns in the Los Angeles region. Movie-makers have been taking advantage of its three miles of wide, clean beaches and its piers ever since movies have been made out here. It is a small town, in both size and population, and the people have long been proud of the fact that they are independent of

and better run than the gargantuan next-door City of Los Angeles.

There are some good hotels, several well-known places to eat, three different shopping areas that attract people from all over Los Angeles, and incomparable beaches. What more could one ask?

History

Father Juan Crespi, whom we mentioned early in this book, was one of the first European arrivals on the scene; he was part of Gaspar de Portolá's expedition from Mexico, and is credited with naming this area. He saw a free-flowing natural spring and called the place Santa Monica (she was the saint who wept for her wayward son, who became Saint Augustine). Crespi was obviously a sensitive fellow. The spring still flows on the campus of University High School in West LA (not in Santa Monica).

In its first nine months, Santa Monica's population grew from almost zero to 1,000.

Fast forward almost 60 years to 1828, when Mexico freed itself from Spain. The region around what was to become Santa Monica was divided into three land grants: *Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica*, *Rancho Boca de Santa Monic*a and *Rancho La Balloña*.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

It is possible to tell what area the land grants covered by the names they were given. Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica was in the area of San Vicente Boulevard, north of the town; Rancho Balloña incorporated Balloña Creek, a small river that ran into the sea at what is now Marina del Rey; and "Boca," which means "mouth," referred to Santa Monica Canyon at the beach.

The city wasn't laid out until almost 50 years later, when John Percival Jones bought a big piece of the San Vicente y Santa Monica land grant and planned the streets and lots. His plan included room for ample parks, including Palisades Park, which runs along the bluff overlooking the ocean for a mile-and-a-half.

Jones kept a prime piece of property for himself; he built a mansion that he called Miramar at Wilshire Boulevard and Ocean Avenue. In 1890 he planted a Moreton Bay fig tree, which still stands. In 1924 the mansion became the Miramar Hotel, and the hotel – now called the Fairmont Miramar – was Greta Garbo's first residence when she arrived here.

A mile-long wharf was built in 1893; Santa Monica was Los Angeles' major port of call for the next 10 years, until Los Angeles annexed San Pedro, to the south. The present pier, the oldest pleasure pier on the West Coast, was built in 1909.

Bringing It Up to Date

Santa Monica is still used extensively for location shooting, as it has been from the time of the first movies shot in Hollywood. There is a new trend: motion picture studios are moving from their historic locations to Santa Monica, as when MGM left Culver City after its original studio was sold to Sony.

La Monica Ballroom, which was once at the Pier, could hold 10,000 dancers.

These days Santa Monica is a small but cosmopolitan city that lies between its own spectacular beach and the eighth-largest city in the world. The style of dress tends to combine urban sophistication and laid-back seaside casualness, with a dash of an ongoing Hollywood/Beverly Hills hipness. Comfortable, casual clothes work well here year-round. There is no formal dress code anywhere; jackets and ties are optional even at the city's most elegant (and expensive) restaurants.

Climate

In the beach area, a jacket, sweater or perhaps just a sweatshirt can come in handy. You may start out in a hot sun with the temperature around 72°F (22°C), but if a fog bank suddenly moves in from the ocean, the temperature can plunge to the mid-50s. Even though it is only 22 miles from downtown Los Angeles, Santa Monica's climate is vastly different because of the ocean breezes. Los Angeles is inland and has a desert-like environment.

In Santa Monica the sun shines more than 300 days a year.

MONTHLY TEMPERATURES & RAINFALL		
	HIGH/LOW	RAINFALL
JANUARY	64° / 50°F	5"
FEBRUARY	64° / 50°F	5"
MARCH	63° / 51°F	5"
APRIL	64° / 53°F	3"
MAY	65° / 56°F	1"
JUNE	68° / 59°F	0"
JULY	71° / 61°F	0"
AUGUST	72° / 63°F	0"
SEPTEMBER	72° / 62°F	1"
OCTOBER	70° / 59°F	1"
NOVEMBER	68° / 54°F	3"
DECEMBER	65° / 50°F	4"
AVERAGE	67° / 56°F	2.3"

Getting Here

From LAX

By Car

Route 66 runs through Santa Monica as Santa Monica Boulevard.

Take Sepulveda Boulevard north; turn left on Lincoln Boulevard at the north edge of the airport. Follow Lincoln through Marina del Rey and Venice to Santa Monica. Turn left at Rose Avenue to get to Main Street; left at Pico Boulevard for beach hotels; or left at Wilshire Boulevard for downtown Santa Monica and the Fairmont Miramar.

By Bus

Take the free airport bus to Lot C, then get on Big Blue Bus #3, which stops at 4th Street in downtown Santa Monica; fare is 75¢.

By Shuttle

Catch the shuttle bus, really a van, on the traffic island outside the terminal. Approximate fare to Santa Monica is $17 for the first passenger, $11 for each additional person. Companies include **Prime Time Shuttle**, ☎ 800-733-8267, www.primetimeshuttle.com; or **Super Shuttle**, ☎ 310-782-6600, www.supershuttle.com.

By Taxi

Fares run between $25 and $30, plus a $2.50 airport fee. Call **Star One Yellow Cab**, ☎ 310-260-9941, or **United Independent Taxi**, ☎ 310-821-1000 or 800-822-TAXI.

By Air

Santa Monica Municipal Airport, 3223 Donald Douglas Loop South, ☎ 310-390-7606.

Santa Monica is only 8 miles (13 km) from LAX and 13 miles (20 km) from downtown LA.

From Downtown Los Angeles

By Car

Take the Harbor Freeway (110) south to Santa Monica Freeway (10) and go west to the end.

By Bus

MTA's Metro Rapid Bus #720 comes straight out Wilshire Boulevard from the downtown area, makes fewer stops than other buses, and an electronic device onboard changes all the stop lights to green, so it is faster; the fare is $1.35.

Santa Monica Big Blue Bus #10 comes out Santa Monica Freeway to Bundy, then down Santa Monica Boulevard; it's $1.25. Phone ☎ 800-COMMUTE (266-6883) for information on either.

Getting Around

By Car

Santa Monica is laid out in a grid of streets running north-south and east-west; those parallel to the beach are numbered, and run from 1st to 26th in the north part of town, to 34th south of I-10. Some of the north-south streets are named, so what would be 1st Street is Ocean Avenue; 8th Street is Lincoln; and 13th Street is called Euclid. East of 26th the streets are named after colleges: Princeton, Harvard, Yale, and so on. A few blocks farther east is Bundy, marking the edge of town.

When you reach Pico from the south on Ocean Avenue, the street that continues straight ahead is Neilson Way; Ocean Avenue veers off to the right and provides beach access.

DISTANCES FROM SANTA MONICA TO...

Venice	2 miles, center to center
Marina del Rey	3 miles
Malibu	4 miles
Beverly Hills	7 miles
West Hollywood	8 miles
Hollywood	9 miles
Downtown Los Angeles	17 miles
Universal Studios	10 miles

All the major hotels and most restaurants and shops are close to the ocean in a 12-block stretch from Montana Avenue to just south of Pico Boulevard. North of Pico, most of the avenues running east-west are named for states (such as Montana). South of Pico you will see names that are common in California, such as Bay, Grant, Pine and Pacific streets, and names with a nautical sound, such as Pier and Navy.

It helps to know that building numbers start with the 100 block at Adelaide Drive on the north side of town and in-

crease as you go south; Rose Avenue is the 3500 block. The north-south running Third Street Promenade, in the center of downtown between Wilshire and Broadway, is numbered from 1200 to 1400. Building numbers on east-west streets start with the 100 block at Ocean and increase as you go east.

By Bus

The Tide Shuttle is an electric bus that runs in a continuous loop every 15 minutes, starting at the Promenade and Broadway; it travels south on Ocean to Marine, then north again on Main and Fourth streets back to the Promenade. Shuttles run Sunday-Thursday, noon-10pm; Friday and Saturday, noon-midnight. The fare is 25¢; seniors and handicapped, 10¢.

Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus has been named North America's Best Transit System three times.

Most Santa Monica and Los Angeles attractions can be reached by the Santa Monica Big Blue Bus or Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). (Senior citizens travel on Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus at reduced fare by showing a Medicare Card.) For route information: Big Blue Bus, ☎ 310-451-5444; MTA Metro Bus, ☎ 213-626-4455, or 800-266-6883.

Who Lives Here?

The north end of Santa Monica is the preferred area for many celebrities. Popular neighborhoods are near San Vicente Boulevard, La Mesa Drive and Adelaide Drive, all just at the edge of town. The tall condo at the north end of the Palisades, at 101 Ocean Avenue, is also a favorite (it's a few feet over the line dividing Santa Monica from Pacific Palisades, but everyone regards it as part of Santa Monica). Anne Bancroft, Mel Brooks, Jeff Bridges, Larry Hagman, Dylan McDermott and Sylvester Stallone all live in this area.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Shirley Temple was born at 924 24th Street, just south of Montana Avenue (sorry, the house is not open to the public).

Other residents of Santa Monica are Jamie Lee Curtis, rocker Eric Clapton and Heather Graham, who lives in Ocean Park (the southern part of Santa Monica by the beach).

Santa Monica's first mayor was a descendant of one of the old Land Grant families, and the father of Leo Carrillo – an actor most famous as Pancho, sidekick to The Cisco Kid.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The 25-foot plastic statue of a ballerina with a clown's head that's perched above the front door of a building at Main Street and Rose Avenue is Jonathan Borofsky's Ballerina Clown; it was much acclaimed by our local art critics when it first went up. There has not been much said about it lately though; perhaps that is because the ballerina's leg, which used to kick, has not moved for several years. Arthritis?

On Location

From the earliest days of movie-making, Santa Monica has been an active site for every studio. How could it be otherwise? It is such an easy drive straight out the boulevard from downtown or Hollywood, and you arrive in a town with gorgeous beaches, a handy pier and a very special character.

The beach community was first invaded by the fledgling movie industry in 1908 when Kalem, Essanay and Vitagraph all had studios here. The brick building at 1438 Second Street was at one time Santa Monica's City Hall, and much later was the home of Vitagraph. By 1915 the stu-

dios had all moved to Hollywood, but Santa Monica continues as a popular place for location shooting to this day.

DID YOU KNOW?

Each year the **Santa Monica Film Commission** issues more than 1,000 filming permits.

Second Street is where the original Gold's Gym was located, near what is now the Santa Monica Place mall. Gold's is where Arnold Schwarzenegger starred in his first pic, *Pumping Iron*. Later, Santa Monica Place itself was used in Schwarzenegger's *Terminator 2*.

Walk out the Colorado Street doors of Santa Monica Mall Place, go straight ahead down Main Street one block and you have arrived at the **Santa Monica Civic Auditorium**, where *The Astronaut's Wife* was shot a few years ago. The Civic was the site of the Academy Awards from 1961 to 1968.

If you walk out the Broadway doors of Santa Monica Place you will be facing the **Third Street Promenade**, where *PeeWee's Big Adventure*, among others, was shot. Scenic Ocean Avenue is a favorite backdrop for Hollywood films and TV shows such as *The Practice*, *Ally McBeal* and *Jack & Jill*; and movies, including *Jerry McGuire*, *Get Shorty*, *Pulp Fiction* and *Speed*. St. Monica's Church, 715 California Avenue, is where Barry Fitzgerald and Bing Crosby were priests in *Going My Way*.

The metal piece of "art" spanning Wilshire Boulevard as you enter Santa Monica is called "The Big Wave."

TIP

Most of Santa Monica's major hotels, attractions, shopping streets and better restaurants are conveniently located within a 14-block radius that includes the beach and the pier.

The Pier was the location for slapstick silent comedies from the moment the first hand-cranked camera arrived.

Charlie Chaplin, Ben Turpin and Laurel and Hardy all used the Pier and, in later days *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* and *The Glenn Miller Story* were made here when the Pier still had a ballroom. It is also where Paul Newman made the carousel go round in *The Sting*; it stood in for Coney Island in *Funny Girl*; and Natalie Wood's mom was the fortune teller here in *Inside Daisy Clover.*

The Santa Monica Pier is at the end of Colorado Boulevard.

In fact, so many films have been shot at the Pier, we will just list a few. Feature films include *Ruthless People*; *The Next Best Thing*; *The Babysitter's Club*; *Deuce Bigalow, Male Gigolo*; *The Kid*; *Joe Dirt*; *Tom Cats*; *Forrest Gump*; *The Net* and *Mr. Bean*. Television series that have used the Pier include *Three's Company*; *Beverly Hills, 90210*; *Melrose Place*; *The Huntress*; *Snoops*; *Seinfeld*; *V.I.P.*; *Level 9*; *SPF-30*; *The X-Files*; *Seven Days* and *Follow the Stars Home* (Hallmark Movie). Among the performers who have shot music videos here are Selena, Jessica Simpson, Rod Stewart and Chris Isaac.

Santa Monica's Beach has stood in for beaches all over the world for almost a century, not always successfully. There is a story about a picture with an East Coast setting, where the screenplay called for a scene on a beach with the sun rising over the Atlantic. The producer, not wanting to spend the money to send a crew across the country, had a brilliant idea. "We'll shoot a sunset on the beach in Santa Monica and reverse the negative." So they did, and a few days later sat in a screening room at the studio and watched the result. A great-looking beach, the sun rising on schedule over the ocean – and the seagulls all flying backward.

Best Places to Stay

Hotels

The best hotels tend to be either on the bluff overlooking the ocean or on the beach at sea level. In Santa Monica, because of the beach and resort atmosphere, winter rates tend to be lower than summer rates. If you fly into LAX, look for a bank of telephones with direct lines to local hotels. Most have free buses they will send to pick you up.

The accommodations price scale can be found on page 39.

★ TIP

In Santa Monica, you have the right to inspect your room before you accept it. Report problems to City of Santa Monica, City Attorney Office for Consumer Affairs, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401, ☎ 310-854-8336.

THE FAIRMONT MIRAMAR HOTEL
101 Wilshire Boulevard
Santa Monica, CA 90401
☎ 310-576-7777, fax 310-458-7912
www.fairmont.com
Expensive

When people in the LA area think of Santa Monica, they tend to think of the Miramar, now called the Fairmont Miramar Hotel. The original building was the home of John Jones, founder of Santa Monica, who built his mansion on this site on the bluffs overlooking the ocean. His family planted the Moreton Bay fig tree in the front yard in 1890; the tree still stands in front of the hotel. Greta Garbo moved into the hotel when she first came to Hollywood, and stayed four years. Betty Grable was singing with the band playing in the lounge when she was discovered.

Miramar *is Spanish for "view of the sea."*

The garden bungalows have hardwood floors, French windows, and marble bathrooms with oversize tubs; some have private balconies and terraces, some have ocean views. Jean Harlow stayed in one of the bungalows, as did, much later, Marilyn Monroe. Jean Simmons stayed seven months. Others who preferred the bungalows included Eleanor Roosevelt, Charles Lindbergh and Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren; President Clinton stayed several times in a tower suite.

Jane Fonda filmed several of her exercise videos in the Miramar bungalows.

The rooms are supplied with plush robes, and beds are made up with goose-down duvets and triple sheeting. The on-site restaurant, the **Grille**, is popular with the locals for dinner, afternoon tea and Sunday brunch. There is room service, concierge service, a health and fitness center

and beauty complex and, because this is Santa Monica, bike and in-line skate rentals.

THE MIRAMAR FIG TREE

More than 100 years ago a sailor from Australia, whose name is now forgotten, got off his ship and went into a local watering hole carrying a sapling of a Moreton Bay fig tree. Unable to pay for his drinks, he gave the tree to the bartender in lieu of money. The bartender gave it to Georgina Jones, wife of the founder of Santa Monica, who planted it in their front yard. Their home eventually became a hotel, but successive owners have been careful not to disturb the Moreton Bay Fig.

The tree is now over 80 feet high and has a 120-foot network of branches. It is still a focal point for outdoor meetings and local festivities. The figs, incidentally, are ornamental, not edible, and fall off each year.

The hotel's appeal to celebrities continues down through the decades. In the 1930s, Gloria Swanson, Humphrey Bogart, Noah Beery Jr., Claudette Colbert and Cary Grant were fans of the Miramar's nightclub. In the '40s it was a favorite of Randolph Scott and Jimmy Stewart. Stewart Granger was a visitor for more than 20 years; he liked to get his hair cut in the hotel barbershop. Dick Van Dyke was a regular for lunch. In the '50s Lana Turner was married at the Miramar, and Susan Hayward, Louis Jourdan and Anthony Quinn were frequent guests. In more recent years, Olivia Newton-John spent her honeymoon here, and Faye Dunaway, Judge Reinhold and Debra Winger have been long-term guests. John Travolta is an occasional visitor; and Michael Keaton brings his son for Sunday breakfast.

The Miramar has long been a favorite locale for movie shoots; movies include *That Touch of Mink* (with Cary Grant and Doris Day in the pool); *Oh, God!*; *The Joy of Sex*; and *The Check is in the Mail*. Many TV shows have been filmed here as well, including *Moonlighting*, *Dallas*, *Dynasty*, *Hart to Hart*, *Remington Steele*, and *Knots Landing*.

Alan Alda often stayed here while filming *M*A*S*H*, Anthony Quinn while making *A Walk in the Clouds*, and Mel Gibson while shooting *Tequila Sunrise*.

FOR PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED GUESTS

The Fairmont Miramar Hotel has special equipment available on request, including smoke detectors with strobe lights, superprint and supercom phone devices, sonic alert phone signalers and tub seats with handrails.

THE GEORGIAN HOTEL
1415 Ocean Avenue
Santa Monica, CA 90401
☎ 310-395-9945, 800-538-8147, fax 310-656-0904
www.georgianhotel.com
Expensive

This moderate sized hotel (56 rooms and 28 one-bedroom suites) is another that is in a great location: it's across the street from Palisades Park and the ocean, and two minutes' walk from the Santa Monica Pier and the Promenade. Eight stories tall and architecturally striking, the art deco style building was opened in 1933 as a seaside apartment hotel. Breakfast only is served in the **Speakeasy** restaurant, which was once a hangout for Fatty Arbuckle, Carole Lombard, Clark Gable and gangster Bugsy Siegel, whose dubious life was celebrated in Warren Beatty's *Bugsy*. A member of the Historic Hotels of America, it is an inviting hotel with a multilingual staff, concierge service and a complimentary reception Wednesday afternoon. Room service is catered in from nearby Ocean Avenue Seafood. There are non-smoking and handicapped-accessible rooms available.

★★ HOTEL CASA DEL MAR

1910 Ocean Front Walk
Santa Monica, CA 90405
☎ 310-581-5533, 800-898-6999, fax 310-581-5503
www.hotelcasadelmar.com
Deluxe

Casa Del Mar is one of only two hotels on the beach in Santa Monica. The others are on the bluff above.

Casa Del Mar has a history. It opened during the Roaring Twenties as the most opulent of the exclusive beach clubs that were built along the Santa Monica coast. Its elite, well-heeled membership included many Hollywood celebrities. There were Sunday afternoon concerts in the Grand Ballroom, barbecues on the sand, Saturday night dinner dances, elaborate floor shows, championship aquatic events in the Olympic size, heated indoor pool. Plus elegant hotel rooms and a private beach for members only.

Prohibition was in full force then, in 1926, but illegal booze (the good stuff, not bathtub gin) flowed at Casa Del Mar, along with the illegal slot machines and late-night skinny-dipping in "The Plunge" (the pre-World War II name for a big commercial swimming pool). The local newspaper, the now-defunct *Evening Outlook*, didn't mention any of it. Its big advertisers were all members of the club. Casa Del Mar got through the Depression but never recovered from World War II, when the Navy used it to house personnel. It reopened in 1999.

Present-day celebrities have returned to replace the old ones. Shaquille O'Neal, Oprah Winfrey, Sharon Stone, Martin Scorcese, Whoopi Goldberg, Kevin Bacon, Steven Spielberg and the Indiana Pacers when they were in the finals with the Lakers. There have been quite a few others since it reopened. We mention these only because they have already been mentioned in the local papers.

The hotel now re-creates the traditional look and feel of the '20s. We were impressed by the dramatic entry rotunda with a royal blue ceiling of stars, and the double staircase to the main lobby with its fruitwood paneling, plush rugs and stone fireplaces. The rooms have gauzy white floor-to-ceiling draperies, wood Venetian blinds and whirlpool tubs.

For dining, there is **Oceanfront**, with California cuisine; the **Veranda**, off the lobby, for light dining; and the **Palm Terrace** by the pool. Complete room service is available

24 hours, with a late-night menu until 6am. A 24-hour concierge provides service, service, service.

★★ HOTEL OCEANA

849 Ocean Avenue
Santa Monica, CA 90403
☎ 310-393-0486, 800-777-0758, fax 310-458-1182
www.hoteloceana.com
Deluxe

If you prefer a smaller, boutique-style hotel, the 63-suite Oceana may be for you. Some of the suites look out on a tropical palm-studded courtyard with pool, the others have a view of the Pacific. There is an outdoor garden area where you can enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast and newspaper, or you may have the meal served in your room. (The hotel is very big on service.) Every suite has a kitchen, and lunch or dinner can be served in your suite. There is a lounge, which we have found to be very nice for sipping a cocktail while gazing at the ocean, and a health club open 24 hours with Cybex equipment, treadmills, StairMasters, and facial and massage services.

Hotel Oceana's room service comes from the nearby Wolfgang Puck Café.

A nice walk of about a half-mile brings you to the upscale Montana Avenue shopping area; it is about the same distance to the more moderate Promenade. Across the street is long, thin Palisades Park (you look out across the thinnest part); below that are 189 steps to the beach.

This is a good, small, quiet, private hotel, which is why it has long been a favorite of many celebrities. The hotel strongly wishes to keep it that way, so we promised not to mention any names. If you check in and find yourself sitting next to someone whose autograph you would really like to have, please restrain yourself. Don't embarrass us.

LE MERIGOT

1740 Ocean Avenue
Santa Monica, CA 90401
☎ 310-395-9700, fax 310-395-9200
www.LeMerigotHotel.com
Expensive

On Ocean Avenue overlooking the beach (a block downhill) and the ocean, Le Merigot might be on the Côte d'Azur. Rooms have Frette linens, down comforters, feather pil-

lows, oversize towels and plush robes. There is an outdoor pool, 24-hour in-room dining, valet service, and concierge. **Cézanne's** menu is California cuisine with a French flair, and has a popular Sunday brunch.

★★ HOTEL SHANGRI-LA

1301 Ocean Avenue
Santa Monica, CA 90401
☎ 310-394-2791, 800-345-STAY, fax 310-451-3351
www.shangrila-hotel.com
Moderate-Expensive

Five blocks south of the Oceana is another small hotel (only 55 rooms in a seven-story building). The striking art deco building is on a corner across the street from Palisades Park with a great view of the ocean, and it is only a block-and-a-half from the Promenade. It has been here since 1939, and from the beginning was a sort of hideaway for celebrities. It was the kind of wonderful seaside place where, in the old days, Hollywood couples would go for what used to be called a "dirty weekend." Couples still go, it simply isn't called that anymore.

Scenes for pictures and TV episodes are shot here every once in a while; we remember seeing the hotel in *Bodies of Evidence*. Even with that, people tend to forget about the place, the hotel hardly advertises and it is known for what it *doesn't* offer: pool, bar, restaurant, room service, or valet parking, which keeps some people away. But that very lack of publicity and paparazzi is what attracts others. Diane Keaton is a fan of the hotel, and Bruce Webber shoots here often (*Let's Get Lost* was filmed here).

There is an unusually wide range of prices, from studios with living/bedroom combinations, single or double, for $160 a day; to two-bedroom, two-bath with sundeck overlooking the sea for up to four people, for $450-$540.

★★ SHUTTERS ON THE BEACH

One Pico Boulevard
Santa Monica, CA 90405
☎ 310-458-0030, 800-334-9000, fax 310-458-4589
www.shuttersonthebeach.com
Deluxe

This is an attractive hotel. Seen from the beach – it sits right at the edge of the sand – it looks to us somewhat like a larger version of Marion Davies' beach house. And that is exactly the atmosphere Shutters intends to convey, invoking the casual, inviting architecture of historic beach resorts and cottages reminiscent of the Southern California coast of the 1920s.

Sliding shuttered doors and shuttered windows in the rooms and public rooms help give it its distinctive exterior look. Inside, throughout the hotel, is original art, lithos and *objets d'art* by artists like David Hockney, Jasper Johns and Roy Lichtenstein. The 186 rooms and 12 suites aim at, and achieve, comfortable luxury. The marble bathrooms contain large whirlpool tubs near windows that open to an outside view from the bath.

The main restaurant is **One Pico**, with windows that wrap around three sides for views of the coastline. **Pedals Café**, next to the bicycle path, serves both indoors and outdoors for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The **Lobby Lounge** is our favorite place for a cocktail at sunset. Afternoon tea is also served there; and the chef will make up an elegant picnic basket, which would be great to take along if you were lucky enough to be invited to a box at the Hollywood Bowl.

This is one of those places that is very protective of its celebrity guests, so we promised not to mention any names. But it has been popular with stars and sports figures who like to stay at the beach from the time it opened in 1993. It is losing some of its cachet, and some celebrity guests, now that the even grander beachfront Casa del Mar has opened across the street. The owners probably don't worry, though. They also own Casa del Mar.

A Santa Monica city room tax of 12% is added to your final bill.

★ TIP

A complete listing of more than 30 hotel accommodations is in the free *Visitors Guide* at the Visitors Center, 1400 Ocean Avenue, in Palisades Park.

Best Places to Eat

Man: *How do you like your coffee?*
Woman: *Alone.*
– Jeff Chandler, Joan Crawford, *Female on the Beach*

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

For a long time anyone who drove to Santa Monica for lunch or dinner from somewhere else usually wanted an ocean view along with the meal, so the oceanfront restaurants tended to be popular; occasionally they were even among the best. But lately people have been coming to Santa Monica for the food itself. Several of the new gourmet places are on Ocean Boulevard, but in some, the dining room is inside where you can't see the water. This is pretty good territory for celebrity-spotting while dining. There are several expensive, gourmet restaurants that fit the bill, but don't make the mistake of always going by fancy looks and high prices. One of the most popular eating places in Santa Monica with stars is the least expensive and least prepossessing of the restaurants we list here.

There are more than 450 restaurants and cafés in Santa Monica.

Fine Dining

★★ **ABIQUIU**
1413 5th Street
☎ 310-395-8611
Contemporary Southwestern
Expensive

If you saw the very funny movie *Get Shorty* a few years ago, there was a scene where John Travolta, during lunch in a modern Hollywood restaurant, threw a bad guy down the open staircase. That was shot in Abiquiu here in Santa

Monica. They were able to shoot a lunch scene because the restaurant is open only for dinner. The décor includes lots of blond wood and stark black-and-white photos evoking the Southwestern United States, which is the area that influences the menu. Lime, green chilis and tequila are used as accents to transform what might otherwise be ordinary dishes. Abiquiu is open Monday-Thursday and Sunday, 6-9pm; Friday, until 10pm; Saturday, until 11pm.

★★ CHINOIS ON MAIN

2709 Main Street
☎ 310-392-9025
Franco-Asian
Very Expensive

This fusion of French and Asian cooking has been extremely popular, especially here at Chinois. The "Asian" part is mostly Chinese and Japanese, with such dishes as tempura Ahi tuna, grilled Mongolian lamb chops and Shanghai lobster. There is one room, not large but with a lot of visuals to keep the eyes occupied while eating: green tabletops, a hammered copper range hood, neon signs. The counter is a popular place to eat, and to watch the cooks preparing the food. The noise level can get very high when it is crowded, enough so that we have friends who went once and loved the food but have never gone back because of the sound level. Chinois is open for lunch, Wednesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm; for dinner nightly, 6-10:30pm; on Sunday, 5:30-10pm. Reservations are strongly advised.

★ TIP

As far as the high noise level inside restaurants like Chinois on Main is concerned, a highly scientific survey (it took us a half-hour) predicts that those people over 60 years of age hate noisy restaurants, where they have to shout to be heard across a small table, while those under 40 seek such places out. No results are in yet on those between 40 and 60.

THE GRILLE
The Fairmont Miramar Hotel
101 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-319-3111
American cuisine
Moderate-Expensive

This is definitely not a place serving whatever-is-the-trend-of-the-moment food. The menu is traditional and solid, the setting is casually elegant. Look for Napoleon of filet mignon with roasted figs (definitely not from the Moreton Bay fig tree out front); bone-in pork with Calvados honey glaze; and grilled Ahi tuna. Breakfasts are the big, old-fashioned kind, and for lunch you might try a lobster club sandwich. A popular item is the Cobb salad, which you do not see on many menus these days. It makes a great lunch all by itself.

You have a choice of dining in the attractive dining room, with rich wood and an exhibition kitchen, or on an outdoor patio and terrace overlooking the gardens – perfect for sunny days and warm evenings. For those who might want a late lunch or early dinner, there is an afternoon menu served 3-6pm with a combination of lunch and dinner items, and on summer Sundays the classic buffet brunch served in the garden is a big community event. Open Sunday-Thursday, 6:30am-10pm; Friday and Saturday to 11pm. Sunday brunch is served from May to September, 11:30am-3:30pm.

★★ **THE IVY AT THE SHORE**
1541 Ocean Avenue
☎ 310-393-3113
American
Very Expensive

A spin-off from the original Ivy on Robertson in West Hollywood, this one has different décor but the same food and prices. Large portions of crab cakes, fried chicken, meat loaf, fish 'n chips and such are nicely cooked, but at these prices why shouldn't they be? The payoff is the celebrities who eat here; perhaps not as many as on Robertson, but it'll do. Lunch, 11:30am-4:45pm; dinner, 5-11pm; the kitchen closes earlier on Sunday. Brunch starts at 11am Saturday and Sunday.

★★ **JIRAFFE**
502 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-917-6671
www.jirafferestaurant.com
California-French
Expensive

Chef/owner Raphael Lunetta calls his menu "sophisticated comfort food with strong French influences." Roasted beet salad with caramelized walnuts, cherries and goat cheese cream is a signature item. Lobster is, for a change, *not* advertised as "flown in fresh from Maine;" they serve fresh spiny lobsters from the Santa Barbara Channel Islands. There are also four- or eight-course tasting menus, and the Saturday night specials include a really tasty osso buco. JiRaffe is open for lunch, Tuesday-Friday, noon-2pm; dinner, Monday-Thursday, 6-10pm; Friday-Saturday until 11pm; Sunday until 9pm only. Look for valet parking around the corner on 5th Street during lunch and dinner hours.

★★ **MELISSE**
1104 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-395-0881
American-French
Expensive

The main dining room, decorated in yellow and green, with green and gold brocade fabric and Empire-style chairs, has an elegant flair. The menu is based on traditional French cuisine, and the wine list is impressive. Lunch, Wednesday-Friday, noon-2pm; dinner, Monday-Friday, 6-10pm; Saturday, 5:30-10:30pm; Sunday, 5:30-9pm. Valet parking.

★★ **SCHATZI ON MAIN**
3110 Main Street
☎ 310-399-4800
Austrian
Moderate-Expensive

Just across Marine Street from M. Hanks Gallery (see page 442), this Austrian restaurant was built by Arnold Schwarzenegger a half-dozen years ago. He sold the restaurant a few years back, but still comes in for his favorite

food, and still owns the building. Monday-Friday, 11:30am-midnight; Saturday-Sunday, 9am-midnight.

★★ VALENTINO

3115 Pico Boulevard
☎ 310-829-4313
www.welovewine.com
Italian
Very Expensive

This restaurant is on an unprepossessing stretch of Pico with no other grand restaurants anywhere near, but the Jags and Rolls Royces keep rolling into the parking lot. The restaurant has been here for over 25 years; we have eaten here several times, usually on a birthday or anniversary. Piero Selvaggio, the owner, who is originally from Sicily, expanded it a few years ago but, in our opinion, the new rooms lost the charm of the old.

Valentino has received Wine Spectator's *Grand Award every year since 1981.*

The celebrities keep coming because the restaurant's food keeps winning national praise for "outstanding" this and "best" that. The wine cellar is considered one of the best in the country, with over 100,000 bottles. Though the cellar was substantially damaged in the 1994 earthquake, it is now better than ever, with over 2,000 choices, partially due to the help of loyal patrons and wine lovers from around the world who sent a bottle or two each to help rebuild it.

Valentino is open for dinner, Monday-Saturday, 5:30pm-10pm; lunch is served Friday, 11:30am-2:30pm. Reservations are strongly recommended. Take Pico to just east of Santa Monica Freeway (10), between the freeway and Centinela Avenue. Valet parking.

Casual Dining

★★ CAFE MONTANA

1534 Montana Avenue
☎ 310-829-3990
California cuisine
Inexpensive-Moderate

A toney café whose walls are brightened with posters of Oscar-nominated movies. Someone who went in for break-

fast recently reported that, at a table under a poster of Anthony Hopkins in *Titus*, was – surprise! – Anthony Hopkins. Apparently that's not an unusual sight here. Café Montana is open daily for breakfast and lunch, 8am-3pm; for dinner, Monday-Thursday, 5:30pm-9:30pm; Friday-Saturday, 5:30pm-10pm; Sunday, 5:30pm-9pm. Brunch is served on weekends, 11:45-3pm.

★★ **CHEZ JAY**
1657 Ocean Avenue
☎ 310-395-1741
American
Moderate

Mellow is the word for this dark joint with sawdust on the floor where you can toss the shells after you crunch the free peanuts at the bar. Celebrities have been coming in here since the place opened over 40 years ago. Part of the appeal is that they can be anonymous for a while; it doesn't hurt that owner Jay Fiondella is an engaging personality. Clint Eastwood used to come in often, before he moved to Carmel; he still drops in when he is in town shooting. Dennis Hopper, who lives nearby in Venice, is often spotted here; Sean Penn, Julia Roberts and others are here occasionally, sometimes late at night after the kitchen is supposedly closed.

Chez Jay owner Jay Fiondella says his restaurant is "so dark you don't know what you're eating or who you're with."

The fare is mostly steaks, shellfish and seafood; the banana mashed potatoes (no kidding) are a longtime favorite. There are only 12 tables in this small place with nautical décor, so you might want to call ahead. There are also 12 bar stools, but you cannot reserve those. Lunch is served Monday-Friday, noon-2pm; dinner daily, 6-10:30pm; the bar is open in the afternoon and until 2am. Breakfast is served Saturday and Sunday from 9am.

SURF DOGS
2522 Main Street
Inside Surf Liquor Store
☎ 310-392-2819
Inexpensive

This is a hot dog joint for purists. Buns are toasted, weiners are meaty and in natural casings so there is that traditional (but not often found) snap when you bite into

them. Polish sausages have real flavor, with lots of garlic, and pastrami is lean but still has flavor.

Choose from a selection that includes hot dogs, Polish sausages, pastrami and chili, then make a combination. A dog with mustard, sauerkraut and onions is a Hang Ten Dog; a Polish with the same combo is a Main Street. Sauerkraut and pastrami is a Reuben. They run $2.69-$5.59; no credit cards. We tried the chili, but thought it was sort of bland.

YE OLDE KINGS HEAD PUB
116 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-451-1402
Inexpensive

It seems as if everyone visiting from Britain comes in here at least once, along with all the Brits who live here (and there are many), and a lot of the rest of us who live in or near Santa Monica. It is not just for the fish and chips or the steak and kidney pies, though they are good, but to enjoy the warm and friendly atmosphere that goes with them. For more about the pub, see pages 455, 456 and 457.

Afternoon Tea

THE FAIRMONT MIRAMAR HOTEL
101 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-319-3113

The tradition of afternoon tea in Santa Monica started at the Miramar in 1889 with Georgina Jones, who was both English and the wife of John Jones, founder of the city. She served tea on the terrace of the Jones mansion, where the hotel is now, and the tradition has been carried on. These days it is served in the Koi Pond Lounge and Garden Terrace from 3-5pm daily. It includes, depending on how hungry you are, champagne and fresh strawberries, tea sandwiches, freshly baked scones with Devonshire cream, strawberry jam, assorted pastries and banana nut bread and, of course, many tea selections. The cost is from $14.50-$24.50.

Shop Till You Drop

If this is the way things are going to be around here, I'm going back to the Bonjour Tristesse Brassiere Company.
– Judy Holliday, *Bells Are Ringing*

Santa Monica is prime shopping territory. There are three distinct shopping neighborhoods, and many more interesting shops are scattered around town. It wasn't always this way. Santa Monica used to have one venerable, old-fashioned but well-loved department store – Henshey's – the kind of store where, right to the end, your money and the handwritten order slip were sent via a vacuum tube to the cashier on another floor. Everyone hated to see it go, but it was inevitable after the big, modern mall, Santa Monica Place, arrived.

★ TIP

For a free map of Santa Monica's central shopping district and a list of all merchants, with addresses and phone numbers, write to the **Bayside District Corporation**, 1351 Third Street Promenade, Suite 301, Santa Monica CA 90401; ☎ 310-393-8355, www.downtownsm.com.

On a celebrity-rating scale, **Montana Avenue** is where you are most likely to find someone famous looking at the same expensive knickknacks as you. There are no hard statistics on this, but our gut feeling is that **Main Street**, while it does have Chinois on Main, Wolfgang Puck's restaurant, and a few celebrity-prone shops, sees fewer. The **Third Street Promenade** is not a great place to go on a celebrity-hunt, it is too crowded; if someone is recognized, he/she is likely to find themselves in the middle of a mob.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

When you are on Santa Monica Boulevard you are on historic **Route 66**, which cuts straight through Santa Monica and ends – overlooking the Pacific Ocean – 2,448 miles (4,000 kilometers) from its start in Chicago.

Main Street

Edgemar, which houses a collection of shops and eateries at 2401 Main Street, was designed by famed architect Frank O. Gehry.

In about 12 blocks, from Pico Boulevard to Navy Street, this street offers a varied range of options for walking, browsing, shopping, eating and probably a few others things, depending on your personal predilections. If you have time and just want to saunter along seeing the sights and enjoying the smog-free air (one of Santa Monica's big attractions), the densest selection of shops is from Hollister Street (the 2400 block) to Marine Street (the 3000 block). Here is a small, selective sampling of the more than 160 merchants on Main.

★ TIP

For a good map of this district, contact the **Main Street Merchants Association**, ☎ 310-899-9555.

ZJ BOARDING HOUSE
2619 Main Street
☎ 310-392-5646, fax 310-392-9907
www.zjboardinghouse.com

Surely the biggest selection of boards and board fashions along the coast. We mean surfboards, snowboards and skateboards, plus everything to go with any of those: beach fashions, footwear and accessories for everyone from tots to the tottering. The staff is good about answering questions and providing help. Surfboard and snowboard rentals and surfing instruction are also available. Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-8pm; Sunday, 10am-6pm.

★ TIP

Street parking is hard to find on or near Main Street, but there are metered parking lots behind the buildings on the west side of the street the length of all the blocks from Kinney to Hollister.

IMPOLITIC
2665 Main Street
New Orleans Building
☎ 310-396-2720
www.impolitic.com

At Impolitic, look for original drawings of political cartoons by artists like Pulitzer Prize-winner Paul Conrad (*Los Angeles Times*). It's fun to go in and browse, even if you have no intention of buying, just to scan the art on the walls. This is really high-quality artwork. Open Wednesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm (hours vary).

★ **SANTA MONICA TRADING CO.**
2705 Main Street
☎ 310-392-4806

A long, narrow store specializing in movie posters and books; everything is on shelves against the walls up to the ceiling, on stacks on the floor; there are more books and posters heaped on tables down the middle, and on into the back room. Whatever you want to know is probably in an old book in there somewhere. It can be great fun to spend a while browsing among it all. Open Wednesday-Friday, noon-5pm; Saturday, 11am-5pm.

NEWS STAND ETC.
2726 Main Street
☎ 310-396-7722

This is where you'll find hometown and international newspapers and magazines. Open daily, 6am-11pm.

ANNIE ROSE
2806 Main Street
☎ 310-396-3377

Visit Annie Rose for hip women's beach attire as well as Hawaiian shirts for men. Open daily but with a laid-back schedule, so you might want to phone ahead.

★★ **M. HANKS GALLERY**
3008 Main Street
☎ 310-392-8820

You'll see good things on the walls in this gallery specializing in work by African-American artists; quite a few pieces sold here now hang in celebrities' homes. Owner Eric Hanks (M. is his daughter) has asked us not to name names of some of those who drop in here, but this is a well-known gallery in celeb circles. Thursday-Saturday, noon-5pm, and by appointment.

Montana Avenue

To appreciate what Montana Avenue is now you had to have known it in earlier times. Languid was the word for the collection of mom-and-pop shops – a barber shop, a coin-operated laundry, a hardware store, service station – that were strung out between 7th and 17th streets. It was a friendly place to shop and had most of what the neighborhood needed, and the neighborhood was insulated from the rest of the city: to the south, between Montana and Wilshire, are apartments and townhouses; on the other side as far as San Vicente are tree-lined streets with vintage single-family homes.

Like harbingers of things to come, a few boutiques appeared in the 1970s; by the mid-'80s out went the dry cleaners, gas stations and hardware stores, all replaced by spas, galleries, artsy home décor shops, trendy antique stores and coffee houses, coffee houses and more coffee houses. Since the area north of Wilshire Boulevard is upscale Santa Monica, and north of Montana is upper-upscale Santa Monica, it is all sort of upscale-chic. It is pretty much a replay of what happened to New York's Upper West Side: if you are a visitor it may be a delight, but if you

live there and you want to buy a hammer and some nails, it can be a pain.

WARNING!

Parking is a problem along Montana. Have coins for the meters, and know that parking on some side streets is restricted; read the signs before parking.

Many celebrities shop along Montana. Kate Capshaw and Rita Wilson are seen often; so are Lauralee Bell from *The Young and the Restless*, and Madonna when she is in town. Arnold Schwarzenegger and his wife Maria Shriver and their children live in Pacific Palisades, just to the north, but are often here shopping. The attraction is that there are no big chain stores as yet, just unique shops, each imbued with the individual vision of its owner, which is what makes it worthwhile, and fun, to come to Montana.

You will soon see that the avenue is definitely aimed at women shoppers; while there are over 30 places showing women's clothes and five devoted to babies and children, you will find only two for men. More numbers: there are 17 antiques and furniture stores and seven coffee bars along the 10-block strip. You'll find more about Montana Avenue at www.montanaave.com.

★ **JASON VASS GALLERY**
1210-A Montana Avenue
☎ 310-395-2048, fax 310-395-4541

Vass is a well-known, respected dealer in international vintage Belle Epoch, art nouveau, art deco, propaganda and movie posters, circa 1880-1950. Open Tuesday-Sunday, noon-7pm.

WOVEN LEGENDS
1302 Montana Avenue
☎ 310-451-9008

This is truly an unusual carpet store. You will find neither handwoven antique carpets made with natural dyes, nor

new, machine-made carpets made with cheap chemical dyes. Instead, remarkably, these are new carpets made with natural dyes, woven in remote Turkish villages by people who have re-created the long-forgotten artistry.

George Jevremovic, the owner, went to Turkey in 1978 and spent years nourishing the idea of revitalizing the carpet industry. The villagers had to learn how to make natural dyes, using such things as milkweed for yellow, madder root for red, indigo for blue and walnut for black. And they learned how to weave on hand looms, in the ancient way, using wool from "fat-tailed" sheep. In the book *Oriental Rugs Today, a Guide to the Best in New Carpets From the East* (Berkeley Hills Books, 2000), author Emmett Eiland says "Jevremovic was the first," and calls it a renaissance. Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, 11am-6pm.

★★ ROOM WITH A VIEW

1600 Montana Avenue
☎ 310-998-5858

In this shop you'll find a wide range of fine housewares, from silverware to linens with an elegant country feeling; robes and towels; glassware; silver trays. Lauralee Bell of *The Young and the Restless*, who shops here, likes the "girly stuff. It's a chick store." There's parking in back. Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, noon-5pm.

Third Street Promenade

The Third Street Promenade is a pedestrian-only bazaar.

In recent years the Promenade has become a popular destination for people from all over Los Angeles. Add to that the visitors from the rest of the country and abroad, mostly Europeans, and you'll know why it is so often crowded.

This busy part of Santa Monica is between Wilshire and Broadway, from Ocean Avenue to Fifth Street. The heart of the area is the three-block walking street (no cars, hence the name Promenade) along Third Street from Wilshire to Broadway. Browsers, diners, shoppers, moviegoers and people watchers stroll along enjoying the shops, boutiques, vending carts, eateries, bookstores, street performers and movie theaters, all in a lively, friendly atmosphere.

TATTOO ANYONE?

Henna tattoo artists were once prevalent on Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade. The brown-tinted designs wear off in about two weeks, which makes them perfect for someone who wants a temporary body adornment. But then someone used permanent hair dye instead of henna, and the patron sued the city. As of this writing, the city has banned henna tattoo artists from the Promenade, even though actress Michelle Phillips, one of the original members of The Mamas and The Papas, joined in a demonstration supporting the artists. If you still want a temporary tattoo, try the Venice Boardwalk, where they are endemic.

To get here from out of town, take the Santa Monica Freeway to the Fourth Street exit; turn right. There are parking structures along both sides of the Third Street Promenade, accessible either from Second or Fourth. Spaces are metered, but the first two hours are free.

Mimes, jugglers, harpists and dueling saxophones are common on the Promenade.

Elsewhere in Santa Monica

There are other hot spots away from the heavily publicized streets where you might find just what you need.

Pico Boulevard

This is a small district located 30-some blocks east of the beach along Pico, around the Centinela off-ramp of the Santa Monica freeway; the boulevard is known mostly for **Valentino**, probably the best-known Italian restaurant in Los Angeles (see page 436).

COLLEGE OF THE STARS

Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Boulevard, was named by *Rolling Stone* among the "Ten of the Best" community colleges in the nation. The college's **Academy of Entertainment & Technology** trains students in digital animation and new media. The school's award-winning radio station, KCRW (89.9 FM), is the flagship station for National Public Radio. Alumni include actors James Dean, Dustin Hoffman, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gloria Stuart (*Titanic)* and singer Rickie Lee Jones. Oh, yes, and Monica Lewinsky and madam-to-the-stars Heidi Fleiss.

CAPRICE FINE FRENCH PASTRIES
3213 Pico Boulevard
☎ 310-453-1932
www.capricefrenchpastries.com

Caprice is known for gourmet cakes, cookies and pastries, and particularly for their exquisite wedding cakes. Monday-Saturday, 7:30am-5:30pm.

McCABE'S GUITAR SHOP
3101 Pico Boulevard
☎ 310-828-4497
www.mccabesguitar.com

Pull the guitar-neck door handle and you will step into one of the most famous acoustic instrument stores in the nation. Nothing has a dangling wire that plugs into a stack here, it's strictly a matter of strummin' and finger-pickin' a mellow spruce-and-rosewood box. Probably every folk great and many jazz performers have been in, either for an instrument or to play (see *After Dark*, page 481).

The store, which carries guitars, banjos, mandolins and much more, was founded in 1958 by furniture maker and folk music fan Gerald McCabe as a quiet, friendly, unpretentious place, one of the reasons it still thrives. If you play, you might want to get yourself a free pick; if not, have a cup of coffee and simply browse among the hundreds of

instruments and hard-to-find CDs and books lining the walls.

We have found there is even more to admire than the exquisitely made boxes: beautifully crafted instruments like Greek bouzoukis, Russian balalaikas and Tibetan singing bowls. For mariachi fans there are *guitarrons, sextos*... it goes on. Whether you are a musician or just a fan, you don't want to miss McCabe's. Open Monday-Thursday, 10am-10pm; Friday-Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, 1pm-5pm.

Specialty Shopping & Services

Celebrity Gear

★ **BRITS OVER HOLLYWOOD**
3004 Lincoln Boulevard
☎ 310-392-7740
www.britsoverhollywood.com

You will find used clothing, some from celebrities, in Mo Potok's shop. Even though it is a tiny place, there are nooks and crannies to explore so allow time to browse. Mo was once an interior designer in London, which is why the place looks as if it belongs on Portobello Road.

Although this part of Lincoln Boulevard is certainly not a fashionable shopping area, Mo says she has a lot of celebrity friends who dispose of last season's alligator handbag or some such here. She points to a pair of sequined Gaultier bike shorts that used to hang in Madonna's closet.

Mo likes to find old designer gear and bring it back to life; in addition to her retail business, she supplies the costume departments on films and series like *The Nanny*. It is best to simply ask Mo what she has in the shop that came from celebrities.

The shop used to be open regular hours; we put one ★ by the name because, since it is now open by appointment only, you are not apt to run into any celebrities while you are there. On the other hand, Mo says it is the only shop where you will get the personal attention of the owner who

will advise you about style, and not be waited on by "some little $8-an-hour twit of a salesgirl."

★★ STAR WARES

☎ 818-707-8500
www.starwares.com

This is a celebrity thrift store on-line. There was once a store by this name on Main Street, but a few years ago it closed and went completely electronic. If you'd like a jacket that belonged to Cher, or the glasses worn by secret agent Austin Powers, then this is the place for you.

In addition to movie collectibles purchased from studios and at auctions (there are dealers who specialize in only that), Star Wares' owner Marcia Tysseling also sells used clothing, but hers happen to be the discarded threads of well-knowns like Linda Blair, Shirley MacLaine, Rue McClanahan, Barbra Streisand and Elizabeth Taylor. Some of the clothing comes from the studio wardrobe people, but most of it is from the celebrities themselves, who give it to her on a consignment basis and donate the profits to charities.

In case you wonder how you can be sure those really were Rita Moreno's ski boots, Tysseling will not purchase anything unless there is proof through paperwork that the item is authentic and was obtained lawfully. On top of that, she spends hours fast-forwarding through movie videos to make sure the costumes and props were actually in the films they claim.

A tip about the prices: contrary to what you might expect, an item of clothing worn at home by a star often sells for less than something that was worn on screen. Tysseling cites a pair of pants that may have cost Cher $1,200, which sold here for $150 because they were used. Yet a shirt that a studio wardrobe department paid $20 for at the Gap may sell for $3,000 because Bruce Willis wore it in a movie. Celebrities sometimes shop Star Wares to fill in their own movie collections. For instance, Charlie Sheen bought a set of dog tags from *Platoon*, and Christian Slater collects items from *Batman* and *Star Trek* movies.

YOU'LL FIND IT AT STAR WARES

- Linda Blair's autographed Ann Taylor blouse – $20
- Cher's spaghetti-strap tank top – $55
- Burt Reynolds' tuxedo jacket – $150
- John Wayne's luggage tag – $475
- Ribbed tank top worn by Al Pacino in *Frankie and Johnny* – $2,000
- Suede boots worn by Harrison Ford in *Indiana Jones* – $5,500
- Army dress uniform worn by Tom Hanks in *Forrest Gump* – $20,000

Books

Angelenos buy and read more books than people in any other place in the country, and Santa Monica is a big part of that. For instance, if there is a book on any aspect of the arts you have been wanting, you have probably come to the right place. Here is a sampling of bookstores that host regular readings and other performance events.

HENNESSEY & INGALLS BOOKSTORE
1254 Third Street Promenade
☎ 310-458-9074

This is one of the most complete art and architecture bookstores in the area. Open daily, 10am-8pm.

ARCANA BOOKS ON THE ARTS
1229 Third Street Promenade
☎ 310-458-1499

At Arcana, you will find books on 20th-century art, architecture, design and photography, many of which are rare and out of print. Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, noon-6pm.

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (MOCA) STORE
2447 Main Street (at Edgemar)
☎ 310-396-9833

You will find books relating to contemporary art at this spin-off of the Museum of Contemporary Art in downtown Los Angeles. Open Sunday-Wednesday, 11am-6pm; Thursday-Saturday, 11am-9pm.

NOVEL CAFE
212 Pier Avenue
☎ 310-396-8566

The Novel Café is a bookstore and coffeehouse where you will find contemporary art on display. Open daily, 7am-1am.

HI DE HO COMICS
525 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-394-2820

You will find over 500,000 comic books, from *Batman* #1 to a variety of underground comics. Film studio researchers are among their customers. It is worth phoning before they open to hear the message on the answering machine. Open daily, 11am-7pm; Wednesday, 11am-9pm.

MIDNIGHT SPECIAL BOOKSTORE
1350 Third Street Promenade
☎ 310-393-2923

This is the place for poetry and prose readings, book signings and discussions with authors, current affairs panels, music performances, monthly art shows, classes, reading groups. Busy, busy! Open Sunday-Thursday, 10:30am-11pm; Friday-Saturday, 10:30am-11:30pm.

ACTS CHRISTIAN BOOKS
710 Broadway
☎ 310-319-1304
Open Monday-Saturday, 11am-4pm

THUNDERBOLT SPIRITUAL BOOKS
512 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-899-9279
Open daily, 10am-10pm

BARRY R. LEVIN SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY LITERATURE
720 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-458-6111
Open Monday-Thursday, 10am-6pm; Friday, 10am-2pm; Sunday, noon-5pm

CALIFORNIA MAP & TRAVEL
3312 Pico Boulevard
☎ 310-396-6277

Here you will find what may be the most extensive collection of travel books in the city, plus maps, including US Coast Guard topographical, and some wonderful globes, all sizes. Open Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm; Saturday, 9am-5pm; Sunday, 12pm-5pm.

Beauty, Health & Fitness

Santa Monica is a great spa town, with quite a few small, serene places to get pampered or pummeled, or both. If you are looking for something a bit more strenuous, there are a few gyms and health and sports clubs for real workouts. Most of them keep long and late hours.

AQUA DAY SPA
1422 Second Street
☎ 310-899-6222

This spa offers Vichy showers, Ayurvedic treatments, yoga, meditation and anti-aging programs, and a spectacular atrium. Open Monday-Thursday, 10am-10pm; Friday-Saturday, 9am-10pm; Sunday, 10am-8pm.

BURKE-WILLIAMS DAY SPA & MASSAGE CENTER
1460 Fourth Street (at Broadway)
☎ 310-587-3366

At Burke-Williams you can opt for European style massage, hydrotherapy, hair, skin and nail care, body wraps, aromatherapy massages, facials and scalp treatments. Open daily, 8am-10pm.

CLUB SANTE
Fairmont Miramar Hotel
101 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-576-7777

This salon offers massage and basic cosmetics services such as waxing, nails and facials to walk-in day clients as well as hotel guests. Open daily, 9am-10:30pm.

THE LEONARD DRAKE SKINCARE CENTER
2654 Main Street
☎ 310-452-6961

Facials, massages, body treatments, waxing and other services are offered here. Open Monday-Friday, 10am-8pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10am-5pm.

SPA LE MERIGOT
Le Merigot Hotel
1740 Ocean Avenue
☎ 310-395-9700, 800-926-9524

A full range of spa services is offered in this luxury day spa in the oceanfront hotel. The facility is open to the pool area and has an outdoor gym. Open Monday-Friday, 6am-10pm; Saturday and Sunday, 7am-9pm.

BODIES IN MOTION
2730 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-264-0777

This sports club offers boxing and kickboxing classes; visitors can take a class (the day rate is $20). Open Monday-Thursday, 5am-11pm; Friday, 5am-9pm; Saturday-Sunday, 7am-7pm.

FREE WORKOUTS

Surprisingly, the most popular place to get fit for free in Santa Monica is not Muscle Beach, but the Santa Monica Steps, a set of stairs that goes down the side of Santa Monica Canyon. Actually, there are two steep staircases – one concrete, one wood – both near 4th Street and Adelaide Drive, the city's northern boundary.

Look for the wide, grassy median that splits 4th street. Most people go there early in the morning, or after work. To do a set, start at the top, go down 189 steps to the intersection of Entrada Drive and Ocean Avenue at the bottom, then up again. The wooden staircase is east of the more popular concrete one, and has 168 steps.

However, some of the residents in this upscale area are not particularly happy that the stairs are so popular with locals and visitors tightening their glutes and firming their thighs. It can get pretty crowded, especially on Friday and weekend evenings when people stand around cooling off in the sea breeze while enjoying the wonderful view. Parking is an obvious problem.

EASTON GYM
1233 Third Street Promenade
☎ 310-395-4441

Top of the line fitness equipment, classes in boxing, kickboxing, aerobics are offered here. Day memberships are available, or phone ahead for a free workout (save the $13). The gym is on the building's second floor overlooking the Promenade. Open Monday-Friday, 5am-midnight; Saturday-Sunday, 7am-midnight.

QUEST
1455 19th Street
☎ 310-453-4536

Quest has individual sessions in body sculpting, cross-training and kick boxing. Private trainers are available in

their 15,000-square-foot, top-of-the-line fitness facility, or just drop in to use facilities ($12). On Thursday nights there's a free-form "vibe" dance party. Open Monday-Thursday, 6am-9pm; Friday, 6am-6pm; Saturday and Sunday, 8am-3pm.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Though everyone calls them the Santa Monica Steps, they are mostly in Los Angeles. The city line runs down the middle of Adelaide Drive and even through the middle of some of the houses. Only the top 22 of the concrete steps are in Santa Monica, the rest are in Los Angeles. Of the shorter, lesser-known wooden steps, the top 14 feet are in Santa Monica, the bottom 214 feet in Los Angeles.

The British Are Here

The British began arriving in Hollywood in the 1920s, and by the '30s it became a flood that included expatriate actors like Brian Aherne, Ronald Coleman, Leslie Howard and David Niven; and writers like Christopher Isherwood, who lived in Santa Monica Canyon; Aldous Huxley; and Evelyn Waugh, whose novel, *The Loved One*, satirized his fellow expat Brits. Others, like Deborah Kerr, came in the early 1940s. And business people, students, tourists and film people still come. The majority seem to have chosen Santa Monica as the place to live, perhaps because it reminded them of home. After all, Santa Monica has more fog than anywhere else in Los Angeles County.

As a result there is a liberal sampling of English – and Irish – life found here in Santa Monica. We can understand the proliferation of pubs and tea rooms; they are a touch of home away from home for Brits living here as well as for visiting Brits. And those places have become very popular with the rest of us; some of the champion pub dart teams even have all American-born players. But we have

never understood who is buying British goods in the shops; surely Brits wouldn't come all the way here to buy a pot of Devon preserves, or socks with a clan plaid design? Oh, well.

Sports the British Way

Head for the lawn-bowls area of Douglas Park, near Wilshire and Chelsea. You will see very serious lawn bowlers wearing proper white linen slacks, white shirts and white shoes. After you watch for a while you will appreciate how difficult this sport truly is, and how good they are at it. The park is open daily, 6am-11pm; tournaments are usually on weekends.

★ TIP

To enjoy proper British lawn-bowling, visit Douglas Park on Wilshire Boulevard.

British Shoppes

THE CONTINENTAL SHOP
1619 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-453-8655

Homesick expatriates know this place well. They carry a lot of goods from the continent in general, but their specialty is all things British, including food, films, cassettes, CDs, you name it. Open Monday-Saturday, 9:30-6; Sunday, noon-4pm.

YE OLDE KINGS HEAD SHOPPE
132 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-394-8765

On the corner of 2nd Street, next door to the Ye Olde Kings Head Pub, it is not a large place but it has a wide variety of everything – from tea to teapots, marmalade to candy, ties to china – made in Britain. How about showing up with your own darts when you challenge the locals in the pub

next door? Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, noon-5pm.

TUDOR HOUSE
1403 2nd Street
☎ 310-451-4107

Across the street from Ye Olde Kings Head Shoppe, this is an atmospheric place filled with nostalgia for the British who live here. Smallish, but an amazing variety of things to browse amongst. Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, 11am-6pm.

Afternoon Tea

TUDOR HOUSE TEA SHOP AND BAKERY
1403 2nd Street
☎ 310-451-4107

Enjoy a proper tea for $10.75, and a larger menu with things such as meat pies like mum used to make back in Blighty. Open daily, 11am-5:30.

YE OLDE KINGS HEAD PUB
116 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-451-1402

They serve a very nice tea here, with sandwiches and freshly baked scones with fresh clotted cream. They also have a vegetarian tea (perhaps in reaction to mad cow disease?), and a children's version. All are served on bone china with good silver. Price is $12.95; reservations are necessary. Tea is served Monday-Friday, 3pm-5pm and Saturday, 2pm-4pm.

Pubs

The pubs listed here are the real thing, not the ersatz places for tourists that you find in some cities. They are especially busy during World Cup, or big football (soccer) matches back home; this is where local British and Irish go to escape the incomprehensible American indifference to the world's most popular sport.

YE OLDE KINGS HEAD PUB
116 Santa Monica Boulevard
☎ 310-451-1402

This is the patriarch of Santa Monica pubs. Everyone from back home stops in here at some time or another. There is the pub, a restaurant (see page 438), a tea room, and then the gift shop, all side by side, taking up most of a block. It all started with just the pub, which has been popular since it opened, not just with the British but with the rest of us. Darts are big here, and there are British beers and hard cider on tap, a favorite in Blighty. Most of the accents you hear are *not* American. Friendly atmosphere, feels like we are back in London. Pub is open 11am-1:30am.

We drop in at the restaurant once in a while at noon for authentic-tasting fish and chips (though they don't serve them in a greasy sheet from a tabloid). There is Yorkshire pudding, fish, bubble 'n squeak, the whole lot. The restaurant is open daily, 11am-10pm; till 11pm Saturday and Sunday.

O'BRIEN'S PUB
2941 Main Street
☎ 310-396-4725

O'Brien's is an Irish pub, which explains all the Guinness posters on the walls. Other than that, there's not much in the way of décor, just a bare wood floor and wood-backed booths in the long, narrow room. But there are dart boards and a warm atmosphere. The imported beers and ales on tap are served cold, "since we're in America." There is live music nightly, and a cover charge of $5 after 9pm. Call for hours.

THE COCK 'N' BULL PUB
2947 Lincoln Boulevard
☎ 310-399-9696

This is a bare sort of place with a bar and a few high round tables to perch at, but it attracts more customers than any other because of the big satellite dishes on the roof. When the important football (soccer) matches are aired live from back home this place gets so crowded that sometimes you can't get in – whether it is the middle of the night or at

6am! A half-dozen British beers and hard ciders on tap, and a limited menu. Small parking lot. Open 6am-2am.

THE DAILY PINT
2310 Pico Boulevard
☎ 310-450-7631

As we walked into this small neighborhood pub we saw the Red Sox playing the Yankees on one telly and Manchester United playing a Yugoslav soccer team on another. Sarah, the bartender, was British; so was the bloke down the bar who bought us a drink a few minutes after we sat down, and John, on our other side, who was enjoying a day off from his job as bartender at McCabe's – a sort of busman's holiday. It's an immediately friendly place.

Parking on the side streets in this Pico neighborhood is for residents only.

There is a better-than-usual selection of UK brews on tap, and two dozen single-malt scotches listed on a blackboard. No food, and no live music, but you can play the juke box all you want. A second room has pool tables and skittles. They're open 2pm-2am; parking is in a lot behind the pub.

O'BRIENS
2226 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-829-5303

O'Briens is 100% Irish, from the staff to the food. It even received the Guinness "Perfect Pint" award for adherence to Irish serving traditions. There's lots of typical pub grub available; entertainment consists of a juke box and a pool table. O'Brien's is open 11am-2am, but the cook goes home at 11pm.

SONNY McLEAN'S
2615 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-449-1811

This used to be The Red Setter, and was a British pub. The number of Irish pubs is growing (that's not necessarily bad or good, just an observation). Sonny's has three distinct areas, one each for dining, darts and a bar, with the bar in the middle. Back home these would have been separate rooms, closed off from each other, but here in Santa Monica the walls have disappeared and all is open. That might or might not mean something.

There are 23 beers and ales on tap, but half are those weak American national brews, so they shouldn't count. In the dining room are the same high-backed wooden booths seen in so many old country pubs, but more comfortable. The menu has succumbed to Southern California tastes, and offers things like stuffed jalapeños and teriyaki chicken, but the traditional favorites, like fish and chips and Guinness beef pie, are also here and are very good. And portions are large.

Darts are taken seriously here; there are always several tournaments in progress. There is often live music with an Irish band (but no dancing); at present it's every other weekend, but call ahead.

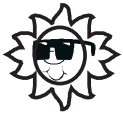
TEMPLE BAR
1026 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-393-6611

The Temple Bar is named for an ancient district in Dublin on the bank of the River Liffey. There is a heavy emphasis on live music in the club room, which opens anywhere from 7:30pm-9pm with a cover of $3-$10, depending on who is booked. There may be four or five groups in one night; phone ahead to see who will be playing. They're open Monday-Friday, 7pm-2am; Saturday-Sunday, 6pm-2am. Valet parking is available.

THE WEST END
1301 5th Street
☎ 310-394-4647

No food is served here, but they have more beer varieties than you could ever drink, everything from Budweiser to Guinness and Harp, and many brown ales, most on tap. There's a dance floor, and live music. Open only at night, 6pm-2am.

Sunup to Sundown



What is there to do in Santa Monica? Anything you want. Things to make one healthy, or artistic, intellectual, or just pleasantly amused... it is all here.

Recreation

Santa Monica Pier

The Santa Monica Pier is the oldest surviving pleasure pier on the West Coast.

There has been a pier of one kind or another here for most of the last century. The present one was at one time much longer; the rest was knocked off bit by bit in storms. But it has been rebuilt and has, among other attractions, a roller coaster (not terrifying enough by some standards, but good for those who don't *want* to be terrified) and a really big Pacific Wheel, the world's first solar-powered Ferris wheel.

The problem with the Pier (the citizens of Santa Monica have been arguing about this for years) is that, while there are a few carnival-midway-type amusements and quick-serve eateries, the Pier Restoration Corp., which runs things for the city, doesn't want too much of a carnival atmosphere for fear the Pier will attract a "bad element." But what it needs is a lot more carny games run by carny people to create more noise and excitement.

There are two restaurants with great views (unfortunately, the first, the quirky Boathouse, which had been well-run by a local family for about 50 years, was inexplicably kicked out by the Restoration Corp. and is being replaced with a fast-food chain restaurant called Bubba's). The other, out at the end, is Mariasol, with Mexican food and a patio overlooking the fishermen and out over the ocean.

The 1909 building housing the Pier's carousel is known as The Hippodrome and is a National Historic Landmark.

One thing everyone wants to see is the carousel; it has been featured in so many movies including, prominently, in *The Sting*. There has been a carousel here since 1916, and the price is still just 25¢ for kids, 50¢ for adults. The carousel is open Tuesday-Friday, 11am-5pm; Saturday-Sunday, 11am-7pm.

The rides and amusements are open year-round. From Labor Day through April, hours are Monday-Thursday, 11am-6pm; Friday and Saturday, 11am-midnight; Sunday, 11am-9pm. From May to Labor Day the Pier is open Monday-Thursday, 11am-10pm; Friday and Saturday, 11am-midnight; Sunday, 11am-9pm. See page 479 for more on the Pier after dark.

DISTANCE FROM THE PIER

Palisades Park	next door
Santa Monica Place Shopping Center	1 block
Main Street	3 blocks
Third Street Promenade	3 blocks
Wilshire Boulevard	4 blocks

The Beach

Santa Monica's beach is one of the big reasons many people come here. It is 3.5 miles long and quite broad, with plenty of room for tanning, wading and swimming. The remains of an old offshore breakwater north of the Pier almost disappears from sight at high tide, but it is enough to keep the surf gentle in this area, good for small children and bathers who don't like waves.

Cirque du Soleil, the Quebec-based acrobatic circus, regularly comes to perform on the sand next to the Santa Monica Pier.

Movies have been shot on this beach since there have been movies; more recently it has been a popular location for television series as well – *Baywatch* is one of many that comes to mind.

You will find parking lots on the beach side of Pacific Coast Highway (which runs along the beach at the base of the Palisades) from Montana to Arizona avenues, and a large one next to the Pier on the north side, at Colorado. There are some small lots just south of the Pier between Colorado and Pico, and two large lots farther south, between Ocean Avenue and Ocean Park Boulevard, accessible from Ocean Avenue. If you are on foot, take one of four pedestrian bridges spaced along Palisades Park north of the Pier that arch over Pacific Coast Highway down to the sand, or walk down the entrance ramp to the Pier, at the end of Colorado Avenue. (There are four public restrooms on the beach, and 14 along the entire length of the bike trail; telephones are numerous.)

Santa Monica has five public sculptures along its beach.

WARNING!

For safety reasons the police recommend you do not walk on the beach after dark.

Surfing

The average temperature in Santa Monica is 67°F (19.5°C) throughout the year.

North of the Pier, where the surf is usually higher, is good for body surfing; you may want to rent a boogie board – a short foam board – to lie on as you kick with your feet to catch a ride on an incoming wave (for rentals on the beach, see below).

If you are interested in more serious surfing but aren't ready to hang ten, you can rent soft-top boards (easier for novices) at ZJ Boarding House, which also rents hard boards (see page 440).

South Bay Bike Trail

The bike trail starts well north of the Pier around Montana Avenue and continues south uninterrupted for about four miles to Marina del Rey. (After a one-street detour around the marina it continues for another 15 miles south.) It is a fun and easy, non-worrisome ride with no auto traffic to contend with.

Bike & Skate Rentals

BLAZING SADDLES
Santa Monica Pier (next to Police Station)
☎ 310-393-9778
www.blazingsaddles.com

There are clearly marked bicycle and skating paths throughout Santa Monica.

Road bikes, mountain bikes and hybrid bikes (the best vehicles for tooling around town) are all here, and all come with lock and helmet. Hourly rate, $7-$11 (two-hour minimum); day rate, $28-$48. Trailers for kids are also available; open daily, 9am-6pm.

★ TIP

If you're renting a bike, remember to request a bike lock, in case you want to pause somewhere along the way. Parents with small children can rent bike trailers so they can tow the kids along for the ride.

SEA MIST
1619 Ocean Front Walk (at the Pier)
☎ 310-395-7076

Road bikes, hybrids and mountain bikes, locks and helmets included. Rentals: one hour, $5-$6; all day, $14-$20; open daily, 9am-6:30pm.

PERRY'S CAFE & RENTALS
Four locations
☎ 310-372-3138

Perry's has two locations north of the Pier and two south. They rent (and sell) skates, bikes, boogie boards and volleyballs, and Perry's operates volleyball courts at all locations. Ask for a copy of their handy bike trail map with restrooms and pay phones marked. If you would like to skate but are a novice, they offer lessons. Perry's has small clusters of tables and umbrellas on the sand, and serves sandwiches, salads, pizza, snacks. Bike and skate rentals: one hour, $6; all day, $15. Open daily, 9am-sunset.

Perry's loans all-terrain wheelchairs at no charge to those who need them, making the beach fully accessible; there is a two-hour time limit, and they require someone to push.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Santa Monica regards itself as the high-tech, dot-com, digital entertainment heart of southern California. It is home to more than 200 top post-production houses and is the regional and world headquarters for a handful of entertainment conglomerates.

Ocean Front Walk

The walk starts on the south side of the Pier and goes to about Bay Street. Walk out onto the Pier and look for the stairs going down just before the carousel.

The sound signals timed to the traffic lights on Ocean Avenue are for the benefit of blind pedestrians.

Right at the start is the **Ocean Discovery Center**, 1600 Ocean Front Walk, Santa Monica 90401, ☎ 310-393-6149, fax 310-393-4839, www.odc.ucla.edu/. With three primary display tanks, a shark and ray tank, touch tanks, a computer and microscope laboratory and a bookstore, it offers an eye-opening insight into the world of the fish and invertebrates that live under and around the piers and in the bay. You will get to know what lives in the sand and on the reefs as well as in the local waters. The Ocean Discovery Center is a non-profit facility run by the University of California at Los Angeles. Summer hours (July 1 to Labor Day) are Tuesday-Friday, 3pm-6pm; Saturday, 11am-6pm; Sunday, 11am-5pm; winter hours are Saturday and Sunday, 11am-5pm; admission is $3.

Next on the ocean side of the walk is a stone-walled **sandbox** for kids. You will recognize it by the big dragon's head and Viking ship play structures. Santa Monica's reputation as a mecca for beach volleyball is obvious with the row of public courts that run along the sand here. There are more beach volleyball courts farther down, but the ones here have bleachers for spectators to enjoy the action.

The large-scale chessboard set into the sidewalk is for matches played with people as living pieces.

The **International Chess Park** is usually crowded with local players, some of whom play from noon to sunset every day, which shows a lot of dedication. Even non-players will enjoy watching, for a while at least. Some homeless people in the area often make their way here and challenge a winner to a game, and the outcome is sometimes surprising. As one of the regular players told us, you shouldn't judge someone's intelligence by the way they look.

A bit farther south is **Muscle Beach**, which was once world-famous and is trying to regain that distinction. At first it was simply an impromptu gathering place for circus and vaudeville performers looking for a good spot to practice their more strenuous routines. Soon they were joined by Hollywood stuntmen and then by a new breed of

athletes, both men and women, who practiced what they called "physical culture." From the 1930s through the '50s this place attracted every gymnast, wrestler and weightlifter of note in the country, and around the world, to show their stuff. It was really the birthplace of the fitness movement.

Jack LaLanne, Vic Tanny, Joe Gold (who founded Gold's Gym and World Gym), all the Mr. and Miss Universes (there was no "Ms." then) posed, somersaulted, formed pyramids, threw pretty girls into the air – and pretty girls lifted big men over their heads. Celebrities had their photos taken looking buff: Kirk Douglas, Clark Gable, Tyrone Power, Mae West and Arnold Schwarzenegger before he was Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Jayne Mansfield and Jane Russell both met their muscular husbands here. Cecil B. De Mille hired Steve Reeves to star in *Hercules* after seeing him do things like balancing three people on his shoulders, and coming off the high rings with a double somersault.

The site was shut down by Santa Monica in 1959 because it was "attracting a bad element." Then, as Venice began attracting national attention, its Muscle Beach overshadowed this one. But there is new equipment here now, and a refurbished facility, and Santa Monica's Muscle Beach is coming back.

Kite-flying and volleyball are favorite things to do on Santa Monica's beach. There are many free public volleyball courts.

As you walk along, look for the public art installation **Singing Beach Chairs**, by Douglas Hollis. In a strong wind the aluminum tubes that rise behind the backrests of these oversized lifeguard chairs become 14-foot-tall pan pipes, creating unique music.

BEACH INFORMATION

Surf conditions. . . . . ☎ 900-849-WAVE
LA County Lifeguards . . . . . ☎ 310-394-3265
LA Harbor Patrol. . . . . ☎ 310-458-8694

Farmers' Markets

There are four farmers' markets in Santa Monica every week. Each is run by a non-profit city organization, and all profits go to the farmers themselves. Each farmer certifies that he grows his own food, and everything must be grown in California.

Look for Asian pears in Santa Monica's farmers' markets during Chinese New Year.

Even if you are eating in restaurants every day during your time here, it is fun to walk through the colorful markets. Try some really fresh fruit that doesn't taste anything like what you buy at a supermarket. Commercial produce brokers would never buy a ripe peach because it couldn't last through shipping and storage, but local farmers can wait until the produce is tree-ripened before picking and bringing it to a local market. You will discover exotic varieties of fruit and vegetables rarely seen in commercial markets.

THE WEDNESDAY MARKET
Arizona Avenue & 2nd Street

This is the oldest farmers' market in Santa Monica and one of the largest in the state. Over 60% of the city's residents say they shop here often, which we don't wholly believe, though it may not be too much of an exaggeration. More farmers show up here than at the other markets, and we have found it is a treasure trove of exotic and experimental varieties, as well as the usual.

For instance, agretti showed up in this market on a recent Wednesday. A Northern Italian vegetable that looks sort of like chives, it has never been available in this country. But, we learned, the owner of a local café, tired of not having any to use in her cooking, got some seeds from Italy and gave them to several organic farmers in this area. Open 9am-2pm.

SATURDAY DOWNTOWN MARKET
Arizona Avenue & 3rd Street

This market specializes in organic food; over 60% of the produce sold here is organic. Open 8:30am-1pm.

★ TIP

Farmers' markets give you a chance to try fruit you may have never seen before. Here is where farmers can experiment with old-fashioned or new varieties that aren't grown commercially.

SATURDAY PICO FARMERS' MARKET
Pico Boulevard & Cloverfield Avenue

This market, the twin of the Saturday Downtown Market, is on the east side of Santa Monica (drive about 23 blocks out Pico Boulevard from the beach), with a good offering of organic produce. Open 8am-1pm.

THE SUNDAY MARKET
Main Street & Ocean Park

This market is the newest, and it is different. Besides the many produce booths, the local Main Street businesses participate with non-agricultural booths serving breakfast and lunch, coffee and tea. There is always live music, arts and crafts, and activities for children, such as face-painting, ceramics and pony rides. Open 9:30am-1pm; bring the whole family.

For more information on all four markets, contact Santa Monica Farmers' Market, 200 Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, CA 90401, ☎ 310-458-8712, fax 310-393-1279, www.farmersmarket.santa-monica.org.

Art Galleries

Santa Monica can boast more than a dozen public art exhibition spaces and more than four dozen private exhibition galleries. To get a full list – more than you ever imagined would exist in a town like Santa Monica – phone ☎ 310-458-8350, or try www.art.santa-monica.org. Listed here are a few of the bigger arts complexes, each with a number of galleries and other facilities in one place.

BERGAMOT STATION ARTS COMPLEX
2525 Michigan Avenue
(off Cloverfield, just north of Santa Monica Freeway)
☎ 310-459-7892

Back in 1875 this was a stop for the Red Line trolley that ran from Los Angeles to the Santa Monica Pier (the name comes from a flower of the mint family that once flourished in the area). Now it is home to over 20 galleries, plus the Gallery Café, custom framing by Art Concepts, Artworks Bookstore, and Colleagues' Gallery, a non-profit, very upscale thrift store where celebrities often shop (see below). Gallery hours are generally Tuesday-Friday, 10am to 6pm; Saturday, 11am to 6pm.

CALIFORNIA HERITAGE MUSEUM
2612 Main Street
☎ 310-392-8537
Free parking

The museum's Queen Anne-style Victorian building was built in 1894 for Roy Jones, son of Santa Monica's founder Robert Jones. It was first at 1000 Ocean Boulevard, a block from the senior Jones' Miramar home at Ocean and Wilshire. It was moved here in 1977 to become the California Heritage Museum. Rotating exhibits have subjects like Depression glass, quilts, Mexican pottery, Hawaiian surfboards and California history and decorative arts. Admission for adults, $3; for students and seniors, $2; children under 12, free. Open Wednesday-Sunday, 11am-4pm (arrive by 3pm).

★★ **COLLEAGUES' GALLERY**
Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Avenue, Bldg. A4
☎ 310-828-1619

This is a non-profit shop raising funds for the Children's Institute International, which explains the odd hours it keeps. Some charity-minded celebrities shop here. The store takes in donations of antiques, household articles and clothes, mostly from the wealthy Westside, all great stuff. The clothing is mostly women's. Somebody picked up Nancy Reagan's old Adolfos here, and Jimmy Stewart's cashmere cardigan and some other things with his mono-

gram on them, but that doesn't usually happen. Most of the time the celebrities exact a promise the Colleagues *won't* reveal who owned the items. Open Monday, noon-2pm; and Thursday, 10am-2pm.

18th STREET ARTS COMPLEX
1641 18th Street
☎ 310-453-3711

This facility is home to the Visual Art Gallery; Side Street Projects exhibition space, a studio for artists in residence and workshops; Highways Performance Space; the Cornerstone Theater Company and Electronic Café International. Gallery hours are 10:30am-5pm; openings are usually held on Fridays, 6:30-8:30pm.

Just For Kids

PUPPET AND MAGIC CENTER
1255 2nd Street
Santa Monica
☎ 310-656-0483
www.puppetmagic.com

Shows are given every Wednesday and on holidays at 1pm; Saturday and Sunday at 1 and 3pm. Tickets are $6.50.

Murals

Santa Monica is well-supplied with murals. Although some are hidden inside high schools and bank buildings, there are a few large murals on exterior walls that are easy to see. They are exuberant, sometimes clever, but all of it public art you will enjoy.

OCEAN PARK PIER
Ocean Park Boulevard and Main Street
(southeast corner)

Designed by Jane Golden, painted by Golden and Barbara Stoll, 1976, this is one of the best. The mural pictures a crowded boardwalk and beach at the well-loved pier with

its ballroom, roller coaster and midway. The pier was torn down in 1974.

YOUR TRAVEL AGENT
a.k.a. *Waiting for the Train*
1842 14th Street
(between Pico Boulevard and Michigan Avenue)

This mural, painted by Jane Golden and Peggy Edwards in 1976, depicts expectant travelers waiting at the depot for an approaching train in an earlier era.

JOHN MUIR WOODS
John Muir School
Ocean Park and Lincoln Boulevard
(northwest corner)

The subject of this mural, done by Jane Golden in 1978, is a forest of redwood trees in Muir Woods National Monument in Northern California.

The Three Dinosaurs on the Third Street Promenade are officially Santa Monica Public Art.

HISTORY OF THE PICO NEIGHBORHOOD
Santa Monica Freeway (I-10), Stewart Street underpass
Stewart Street at Virginia

Ann Elizabeth Thiermann painted this mural in 1983; it is a rather impressionistic depiction of the community's struggle to stay unified.

PUBLIC ART

Chain Reaction, at Santa Monica Civic Center, 1855 Main Street, (just north of Pico) is a depiction of a 26-foot-tall atomic bomb cloud made of heavy chain by Pulitzer prize-winning political cartoonist Paul Conrad (*Los Angeles Times*).

WHALE OF A MURAL
Ocean Park Boulevard at Fourth Street underpass

The subject matter of Daniel Alonzo's 1983 mural is dolphins, whales and other underwater creatures. Not as alive as some of the others.

UNBRIDLED
Ocean Park Boulevard at Fourth Street underpass
(next to the whale mural)

David S. Gordon's 1985 mural, depicting horses frolicking on the beach, means more when you know they are meant to have escaped from the carousel on the Pier.

PARA LOS NIÑOS ("For the Children")
1601 Olympic Boulevard (at 16th Street)

As befits an exterior wall of the Police Activities League Center, Daniel Galvez's 1993 rendering depicts adults and kids together doing nice things.

★ TIP

For an online calendar of events in Santa Monica, visit www.santamonica.com.

Museums

MUSEUM OF FLYING
2772 Donald Douglas Loop North
☎ 310-392-8822

This museum has permanent exhibits of antique and historic aircraft, and hands-on displays. There is even a flight simulator. Open Wednesday-Sunday, 10am-5pm. Admission: adults, $7; seniors and college students, $5 (with ID); children ages three to 16, $3.

★ **SANTA MONICA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM**
1539 Euclid Street
☎ 310-395-2290

The museum has obtained photos and memorabilia relating to the history of Santa Monica and the Westside, including a collection of Stan Laurel's letters (he lived in Santa Monica), photos of stars engaged in civic activities, movie posters, etc. Open Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30am-

4pm; second and fourth Sunday, 1-4pm; suggested admission, $3.

Poetry Readings

ANASTASIA'S ASYLUM
1028 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-394-7113

Anastasia's hosts poetry readings, performances, live music. Open Monday-Thursday, 6am-1am; Friday and Saturday, 6am-2am; Sunday, 8am-1am; phone for performance times.

LEGAL GRIND COFFEEHOUSE
2640 Lincoln Boulevard
☎ 310-452-8160

This is a neighborhood coffee shop with poetry readings, art exhibits and live music, along with free legal consultations, by appointment. Open at various times; phone ahead for a current schedule.

Palisades Park

Palisades Park is a long, thin strip squeezed between Ocean Avenue and the rim of the sandstone bluffs overhanging (and sometimes falling down on) the Pacific Coast Highway and the beach. It is a great place to walk or jog, lined with towering palm and eucalyptus trees and carpeted with lush grass.

An easy, level walk begins at Colorado Avenue, by the entrance to the Pier, and ends 1.6 miles north at Adelaide Drive (Santa Monica Canyon, just beyond Adelaide, is in Los Angeles). The southern part of the park, from California to Colorado Avenue, is much more crowded than the northern half.

The first and only building you'll see is the **Senior Center**. Outside are shuffleboard courts, reserved for seniors. Inside, upstairs, is a **camera obscura**, a delightful instrument that Bob's parents first took him to see when he was a child. From the camera obscura, look across the

street to 1323 Ocean Avenue, the Gussie Moran House. The Queen Anne-style Victorian house is the kind that once lined Ocean Avenue. (If you are not a tennis buff, Moran was a world-famous star player.)

The screen is a round table tilted at an angle. By turning a ship's-wheel, light from a lens-mirror combination in a rooftop turret is beamed onto the tabletop. The lens, which rotates 360°, catches the scene outside: cars driving by in the street, a woman in a blue dress walking on the park path, an elderly man asleep on a bench under a palm tree, a sailboat on the ocean, all eerily silent.

THE CAMERA OBSCURA

In case you have never come across a camera obscura, the encyclopedia definition is "a light-tight box with a convex lens at one end and a screen for the image at the other." This particular light-tight box is an entire light-tight room which you enter, and the convex lens is in a turret in the center of the roof.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main Street, has played host to the Academy of Television Arts & Science's Emmy Awards, the Soul Train Women in Soul Awards and a number of other high-profile events. Call for a quarterly calendar of happenings at the Civic; ☎ 310-458-8555.

Just north of the Senior Center is the **Visitors Center**, a kiosk by the Ocean Avenue sidewalk. Pick up a map of Santa Monica, bus routes or driving directions and information in four languages.

A few steps away is the end of Santa Monica Boulevard, which is also the end of historic **Route 66**, the first national highway to cross the country from Chicago to Los

Angeles in the 1930s. A plaque calls it "This Main Street of America," and dedicates it the Will Rogers Highway.

The cement **statue of Santa Monica**, which faces down Wilshire Boulevard, was sculpted by Eugene Morahan as the city's namesake. Across the street at 100 Wilshire Boulevard, the 22-story General Telephone Building and the adjacent 16-story Champagne Tower Apartments are jointly known as **Lawrence Welk Plaza**. The band leader, who owned the buildings and had an apartment in the Tower, got his big break a mile down the coast at the Aragon Ballroom on the now-gone Ocean Park Pier.

Scenic Drive

The old name for the stretch of sand along Pacific Coast Highway north of the Pier is the **Gold Coast**, also once known as Rolls Royce Row. As the movie industry prospered in the 1920s, magnificent beach houses were built here for Cary Grant, Darryl F. Zanuck and Brian Aherne, among others. Louis B. Mayer, head of MGM, built a house at 625 Pacific Coast Highway. Peter Lawford lived there later, and hosted Jack and Robert Kennedy along with various starlets, including Marilyn Monroe.

William Randolph Hearst built the most lavish spread of all at 415 Pacific Coast Highway. There were several sprawling, two-story white wooden buildings containing, in all, 118 rooms and 55 baths. It was steps from the surf, but with its own protected pool spanned by a marble bridge. Of course, it was all for Marion Davies, Hearst's long-time mistress and screen star for Cosmopolitan Pictures (which, helpfully, Hearst owned).

Marion was very popular with most people, though not all, and practically every star of that era (the 1920s through the early '40s) was happy to be invited to Marion's fabulous parties. For the costume parties, some of the celebrities would come in great get-ups, which they borrowed from the studio wardrobe department.

The Sand & Sea Club is there now. The main buildings of Davies' complex were torn down; the remaining ones were merely the servant's quarters and the cabanas in Marion's time.

The Gold Coast is easy to get to; take California Avenue to Ocean Avenue and go down the pretentiously named California Incline from the top of the Palisades to the Pacific Coast Highway below. Or, take the Santa Monica Freeway to the PCH; drive north from there.

Picnic Areas

At **Palisades Park**, there are no tables, but many like to picnic here anyway, as there are almost always cool breezes and a wonderful view of the ocean from the top of the bluff. The northern part of the park, past California Avenue, is always less crowded and parking is easier.

Douglas Park, at Wilshire Boulevard at Chelsea Avenue (between 24th and 25th streets) is a very nice park, where the Brits come to lawn bowl; no picnic tables.

Los Amigos Park is up on the hill above Main Street, between Hollister and Strand, 3rd and 4th streets. No picnic tables here either, but there are a half-dozen benches with maybe one or two elderly men dozing in the sun and a young amorous couple or two. Lush grass, great views and gentle breezes.

Picnic Supplies

AMALFI
2400 Main Street
☎ 310-392-7466

This Italian deli has good sandwiches, a full range of goodies to go, and a nice little patio if you can't wait to start eating.

BAY CITIES DELI
1517 Lincoln Boulevard
☎ 319-395-8279

This is the largest deli in town, focusing on Italian foods, with a big cheese selection (both domestic and imported), fresh Italian bread every day, all sorts of packaged food and more wines than most liquor stores. Best of all, there

are usually three or four clerks making thick sandwiches on large split rolls, to order. Parking lot.

★★ **IZZY'S DELI**
1433 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-394-1131

Izzy's is a real Jewish delicatessen, where the pastrami or corned beef is piled high on rye bread and the kosher dills are really kosher. We sat with Karl Malden here at a back table some time ago to talk about a play we had written. The regular customers are used to seeing celebrities who live nearby (mostly north of Montana) and respect their privacy. Only one woman came over and interrupted to ask for an autograph, which Malden cheerfully supplied.

JUDY'S DELI
1415 Montana Avenue
☎ 310-260-8877

This place specializes in deli-quality soups, salads and sandwiches. If you want a bottle of wine to go with your picnic, Fireside Cellars is next door.

SHOOP'S DELICATESSEN
2400 Main Street
☎ 310-452-1019

Shoop's is next door to Amalfi; they share the same address, but aren't really in competition because Amalfi is Italian and Shoop's is German. About a third of the shop is dedicated to German imports, from mustard to magazines. Several dense varieties of rye bread (one center slice of *bauern* is enough for two sandwiches). Wide variety of cold cuts.

FILM GLOSSARY

Above-the-line costs – Money paid to "talent" in film production: writers, producers, directors, stars.

After Dark

Art Movie Houses

Santa Monica is home to more than 20 movie screens on the Third Street Promenade showing virtually everything in current release. But if you are looking for theaters showing hard-to-see films, here are two.

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
☎ 310-394-9741

They specialize in foreign films and independents, and occasionally have a retrospective of someone interesting. See *Los Angeles Times Calendar* for current screenings.

NU WILSHIRE THEATER
1413 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-394-8099

Features foreign and independent fare.

The Aero Theatre

When this theater was built by Douglas Aircraft Co. for its labor force during World War II, it stayed open all night so swing-shift workers would have someplace to go after midnight. The theater is still a favorite in the Montana neighborhood; it is one of the last single-screen theaters still around – and they even put real butter on their popcorn. Threatened with declining attendance, the theater was saved on the point of closing by Robert Redford's Sundance Film Center, which plans to put a bistro beside it to generate income, and to renovate the theater to show first-run independent films. 1328 Montana Avenue, ☎ 310-395-4990.

Friday Night Skates

This trend started in Paris, where 25,000 Friday Night Fever skaters speed through the streets. San Francisco picked it up; they get about 350 Midnight Rollers. Here in Santa Monica up to 80 skaters have been known to join in every week so far, weather permitting. If you can skate, and are looking for something wild to do on a Friday eve, this may be for you.

Skaters meet at the entrance to the Santa Monica Pier, at the northwest corner of Ocean and Colorado by the cannon, at 8pm. The skate begins promptly at 8:30. It is a 10-mile, 2½-hour trek through parts of Santa Monica, Venice and Pacific Palisades, with some hills (speed on the downslope is up to 30 mph).

A boom box strapped to the leader's back urges the group along with the sounds of disco, hip-hop and dance music. Rest stops are made so everyone can catch up and catch their breaths. The evening usually ends with the pack speeding down Montana Avenue to Ocean Avenue to the sounds of Richard Wagner's *Ride of the Valkyries* blaring from the boom box.

Provide your own skates – in-liners, quads or five-wheeled – and safety gear. For more information, ☎ 310-57-SKATE (577-5283), www.fridaynightskate.org.

Music & Dance

SANTA MONICA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1685 Main Street (Main and Pico)
☎ 310-996-3260

The Symphony presents four free classical concerts each year, including a family concert with an early starting time.

SANTA MONICA PIER
Colorado Avenue
☎ 310-458-8900
www.santamonicapier.com

The Twilight Dance Series features bands and performers of all kinds – jazz, swing, rock, folk – outside on the pier on summer nights, and it always draws big crowds. Past performers include Bo Diddley, Queen Ida, Jack Mack and the Heart Attack, Tito Puente, Pancho Sanchez and The Young Dubliners. Thursday nights, free, from the last Thursday in June through the first Thursday in August; 7:30-9:30pm. Free Sunday afternoon concerts are held from 2-4pm, February to May, and focus on pop, jazz and R&B.

FILM GLOSSARY

Breakdown – A list of characters in a movie; or a concise description of each scene in a movie.

RUSTY'S SURF RANCH
256 Santa Monica Pier
☎ 310-393-7437, music line 310-393-7386

Just past the carousel, Rusty's is by far the swingin'est place on the Pier, and perhaps in Santa Monica. Thursday-Saturday there are usually three or four groups each night, starting at about 8:30pm; 4pm on Saturday. Lots of choices are offered, from friendly jazz, country western, rockin' blues, rock, roots rock, pop rock to R&B and reggae. Thursday is usually the night for "Women Who Cook," a showcase of top Los Angeles's female musicians and bands. Cover varies from nothing to $20, depending on the attractions. Karaoke is popular on Sunday from 4pm, and Monday from 8:30pm. Tuesday there's no music, but happy hour goes on all night.

Lunch and dinner are served every day at Rusty's Surf Ranch.

HEY, DUDE...

Rusty's Surf Ranch has probably the best collection in the world of vintage longboards from the surfin' '60s. There are 25 boards on the walls that depict the history of the sport.

VODA
1449 2nd Street
☎ 319-394-9774

Voda is an elegant space behind a large, anonymous brown door next to Hotel Carmel. Inside is a cozy, candlelit lounge with some well chosen art and a few banquettes, and Santa Monica's only dedicated vodka bar, with heavy emphasis on martinis. Choose from more than 60 brands of vodka; any goes well with smoked salmon or one of the selection of caviars on the menu. Prices go up to $12 a glass for some of the trendy imports.

Clubs

14 BELOW
1348 14th Street
☎ 319-451-5040
www.14below.com
Eclectic

Live music is offered seven nights a week, alternating between rock, reggae, ska and funk. This is a big, sprawling place with two full bars (12 draft beers), pool tables, three different rooms. Happy hour Monday-Friday, 5pm-7pm. Parking adjacent.

GAS LIGHT
2030 Wilshire Boulevard
☎ 310-829-2782
Blues

This is a smallish place with a décor that tends to red tinsel and Christmas lights, but it's a good place to hear the blues, especially on Friday and Saturday nights, when

J.J. "Bad Boy" Jones is on. The club is packed then with young people who come to hear Jones, who must be 75 and learned everything that is in his songs in Deep South juke joints way before his audience was born.

HARVELLE'S BLUES CLUB
1432 4th Street
☎ 310-395-1676
Blues

In a town where clubs come and go so fast no one bothers to write the phone number in ink, Harvelle's has been here since 1931. Top local groups perform funk and rock, but the specialty is blues, jazz and R&B. Dancing or just listening. Opens at 8am. Park close by in the big public parking structure.

McCABE'S
3101 Pico Boulevard
☎ 310-828-4403
Eclectic

Wander through all the guitars and a myriad other instruments with strings on your way into this one-of-a-kind shrine to live music. Music starts nightly at 8pm; Sunday 7pm. Cover is $10-$20 for all ages. Coffee, tea and sweets only, no alcohol.

★★ **MAGICOPOLIS**
1418 4th Street
☎ 310-451-2241
www.magicopolis.com

There are two theaters here: the smaller Hocus-Pocus Room, which presents close-up magic and sleight of hand, and the Abracadabra Theater for larger illusions and stage events. Penn and Teller performed here (see their handprints and signatures in cement), Stephen King had a birthday party, and David Bowie comes to shows (see their signatures on the Wall of Fame). Call for show times and information.

Magic classes for kids are held on Tuesdays at Magicopolis.

UN-URBAN COFFEE HOUSE
3301 Pico Boulevard
☎ 310-315-0056

Try this place for stand-up comics on Thursday nights, a Song-Writers Soirée with an open mike on Fridays, and a new live band every hour on the hour on Saturdays.

Topanga Canyon

We took some pictures of the native girls, but they weren't developed. But we're going back again in a couple of weeks.

– Chico Marx, *Animal Crackers*

First were the Indians. Those who lived in the area of Topanga, to the south along the coast and well inland east of the Los Angeles River, and in the San Fernando Valley, were all called Gabrielenos by the Spanish who came along toward the end of the 18th century. But there was no large Gabrieleno tribe. They shared a Shoshonean language and a way of life in common, but each village was autonomous.

History

Remains of a Gabrieleno village were found at the mouth of Topanga Canyon, near the beach, and others were discovered farther up in the canyon – one at the site of the present post office and shopping area. The oldest excavated was occupied 8,000 years ago. During the Spanish and Mexican eras, Rancho Boca de Santa Monica, granted to Francisco Marquez and Ysidro Reyes, included the lower part of Topanga; Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica, granted to the Sepúlveda family, took in the upper part; between them was unclaimed public land.

In the 1870s Jesus Santa Maria was the first to homestead in the canyon. He found that the famous bandit Tiburcio Vasquez had a hideout that became known as "Robber's Hut" on the creek bank near present-day Top-

anga Center. Instead of killing Santa Maria, the bandit said "You stay in your end of the canyon and I'll stay in mine." Later Vasquez, fleeing a posse, rode through Santa Maria's ranch, grabbed a fresh horse and threw some gold on the ground in payment – and escaped the posse.

Early settlers were born in Mexico, or in Los Angeles of Mexican parents. Later 19th-century settlers were Americans from back East. Early in the 20th-century inns and camps were established and Topanga became a popular vacation place. The road from the ocean to the valley was completed during World War I, and Topanga no longer seemed as remote as before.

Bringing It Up to Date

Topanga is a Native American word for "the place where the mountains meet the sea."

Topanga was still isolated enough in the 1960s, when the "hippies" were evolving, to become "Haight-Ashbury South." (Venice Beach really owned that appellation, but because the population of Topanga was so limited, a relatively small number of hippies had a big impact, especially on an uptight Chamber of Commerce.) Robert Bobrow wrote in the *LA Times*, "Like Mountain folk from the Ozarks to the Alps, the people of Topanga have only one thing in common – their individualism. Topanga is a thoroughly heterogeneous community, combining urban snob appeal and rural slob appeal in just the right proportions... "

Development

There was sufficient water from Topanga Creek and various wells to support the early settlements here. By the 1950s, with population climbing, though still under 3,000, a majority of residents voted to hook up with the city-wide Metropolitan Water District. With the water problem permanently solved, a seemingly endless queue of land developers showed up, each with bulldozers ready to reshape the hills into a series of tidy terraces just the right size for thousands of houses, all alike. In the process the developers planned to fill in the canyons and get rid of all those "unnecessary" live oaks that were in the way. One of the

The small Pine Circle Shopping Center has bakeries, boutiques, cafés and galleries.

early developments was planned for a population of 60,000 to 70,000.

Yet today as you drive up Topanga Canyon Boulevard you will see only a handful of homes, except for a few tracts way up at the top. You might wonder where all the houses are. They are out of sight, up narrow roads that disappear into ravines around the back of slopes and onto solitary knolls. Most of those who live in Topanga are here to live with those oak trees and everything else that grows here naturally just as it is. And probably to get away from crowds of other people.

A majority of Topanga residents organized to block or severely mitigate that first development and every one since – and there have been many more attempts to pack a large population into Topanga. One stage performance in the 1970s to raise money to help defeat yet another proposed development included locals Dean Stockwell, Russell Tamblyn, Billy Gray (Bud Anderson in *Father Knows Best)*, Lou Gossett and Tisha Sterling in the cast.

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

When driving through Topanga Canyon look in the sky for turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura)*, often seen soaring high overhead; red-tailed hawks *(Buteo jamaicensis)*, which nest on cliffs and dive into meadows for rodents; and red-shouldered hawks *(Buteo lineatus)*, which are endangered elsewhere, but are common in Topanga, and which feed on lizards and snakes.

All phone numbers in Topanga begin with the prefix 455.

A Haven for Artists & Musicians

At least since the 1950s Topanga has been home to artists. In this small town of diverse people with a live-and-let-live atmosphere, only a short distance from Hollywood and the money available there to support the arts, it is a natural fit. Bob De Witt was an early artist who made a living from real estate, but refused to rent or sell to people he considered too bourgeois. Sculptors, weavers, print makers, ceramicists make their homes here, including glass artist

Steven Correia, whose work is found in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian Institute and the White House.

It seems that musicians have always been here. So many classical musicians have lived here, many of whom are members of the LA Philharmonic, that there is a Topanga Symphony and a Topanga Philharmonic. The Symphony performs three concerts a year, in spring, summer and fall, at the Topanga Community House, 1440 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd. Phone Jack Smith at ☎ 818-999-5775 for dates. The Philharmonic performs once a year, in April, at Theatricum Botanicum (see page 488).

Folk singer Woody Guthrie, who composed the American classic, *This Land is Your Land*, came to live in Topanga in 1952. The rock band Canned Heat, which played at Woodstock, was formed here; Neil Young bought a house here, as did Mick Fleetwood of Fleetwood Mac. The acts that played at the now defunct Corral included Joni Mitchell and the Eagles; Taj Majal was a regular, and the Rolling Stones appeared occasionally.

FILM GLOSSARY

Trade Press – Newspapers and magazines devoted to the entertainment industry, such as the *Daily Variety* and *Hollywood Reporter*. The term does not refer to magazines filled with stories of stars' antics, which are written for fans – "the trades" are strictly about business. Note: Do not take as gospel every item announcing picture deals made or jobs won. Filling the trades with these stories describes a good deal of what press agents do.

Getting Here

By Car

There are two ways to get here, up the coast or over the mountains from the Valley; both are scenic. Coming in one way and out the other makes a lovely drive.

The Coast Route

To park at Topanga State Beach, use lot along Pacific Coast Highway, $5 to $8.

Drive out to Santa Monica (the Santa Monica Freeway, Route 10); or take the slower but more scenic route on Sunset Boulevard. Continue up the Pacific Coast Highway to Topanga Canyon Boulevard (State Highway 27).

The Valley Route

Drive out on the Hollywood Freeway (101), to the Ventura Freeway (still 101); go west to Woodland Hills, then go left (south) on Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

Who Lives Here?

Oddly, we don't know of any hugely famous celebrities residing here; they tend to cling to the coast farther up the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu rather than venture into these narrow canyons. Among the few are Ben Stiller, Dean Stockwell and, on an incongruous note, the Shah of Iran's brother.

The Jacqueline Hansen Tough Topanga 10K run, held each Memorial Day weekend, is one of the more challenging runs in Southern California.

Dozens of writers have lived in Topanga over the years. Among them are Hugh Lofting, who wrote the *Dr. Doolittle Stories*; novelist Carolyn See; writer-archaeologist Marija Gimbutas, whose books *The Language of the Goddess* and *The Civilization of the Goddess* have become greatly popular and controversial. The community of writers in Greater LA is so small that we happen to have met Laurel Lee, author of children's books and *Walking Through the Fire*, the story of her recovery from cancer;

and Deena Metzger, poet and playwright, both longtime Topanga residents.

Best Places to Stay

Topanga is a very rural, private community. There are no places where visitors can stay overnight. The nearest place is the Channel Road Inn in Pacific Palisades (see page 313); slightly farther are numerous hotels in Santa Monica.

Best Place to Eat

There is just one place – but it is very well known – across the road from the little Topanga Village.

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

★★ **INN OF THE SEVENTH RAY**
128 Old Topanga Canyon Road
☎ 310-455-1311
Healthy/New Age
Moderate

A romantic place with outdoor tables under the oak trees overlooking Topanga Creek. The ambiance is casual and leisurely; actor Dennis Weaver swears by the peaceful and beautiful outdoor atmosphere in the summertime and cozy interior dining by the fireplace in winter. Food is organic, mostly vegetarian, but with a few meaty items like free-range chicken. The bread is homemade and we can testify that the lasagna is very good. Friends who live in Topanga love the Sunday brunch, though we haven't tried it. They serve lunch Monday-Saturday; and dinner nightly. A New Age bookstore is attached, popular for browsing before or after a meal.

Sunup to Sundown

Picnic & Theater

THEATRICUM BOTANICUM
1419 Topanga Boulevard
Topanga Canyon, CA 90290
☎ 310-455-2322, box office 310-455-3723
www.theatricum.com

This rustic outdoor theater is nestled in the hills of Topanga. When actor Will Geer was blacklisted in the early 1950s for refusing to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee, he and his actress wife Herta moved to Topanga Canyon and began to produce folk plays and concerts. There were performances by Woody Guthrie, folk singer Pete Seeger, the legendary singer Odetta and Rex Ingram, "De Lawd" in the play *The Green Pastures*.

Later, when the political climate changed and Geer could work in films and TV again, he rebuilt the theater in a natural bowl in a canyon, with magnificent California live oaks overhanging the open stage, and named it Theatricum Botanicum (Theater of Plants). Entrance is through the gates used in the original 1929 film *Ben Hur*. Arlo Guthrie and Burl Ives were among the early performers.

Topanga Creek, like most waterways in the Southwest US, is dry in the summer.

Will Geer, who played Grampa Walton on television, died in 1978 (on Shakespeare's birthday). A bust of Geer by Topanga artist Megan Rice in the Shakespeare Garden was dedicated by John Houseman. Every year during the drama season from June to October, when we attend a performance, we picnic beforehand in the Shakespeare Garden near Will's bust. Plan to have a picnic in the garden before seeing a stage production in the open-air natural amphitheater at Theatricum Botanicum; pick up food en route from a Santa Monica deli (see pages 475-476).

Malibu

He who hesitates is poor. – Zero Mostel, *The Producers*

Malibu is Hollywood plus. Everyone in the world knows about Hollywood; it is where dreams are made. Everyone has heard of Malibu; it is where the dream-makers go to rest luxuriously from their labors. It is the land of milk and honey, the place beyond imagination.

History

According to Chumash legend, the people were brought to what is now Malibu by the goddess Lemeuw. Supposedly, the tribe grew too large for Catalina and the other islands off the coast, so the goddess created a rainbow bridge for the Chumash to cross over onto the mainland. But a sudden storm knocked many of the people off the bridge. To save them, Lemeuw changed them into dolphins, which is why the dolphins are in the bay to this day, and the people are on the land.

The place at the foot of Malibu Canyon was called *Humaliwo*, "where the mountains meet the sea and the surf sounds loudly," which is what our word Malibu comes from. The Chumash lived along the coast from Malibu to San Luis Obispo, way to the north, and in some interior valleys.

🕮 Historic Note

The local Indian tribes were named by the Spanish after the nearest missions, such as the Gabrielenos after the San Gabriel Mission and the Fernandeños after the San Fernando Mission.

The Chumash dressed either in skins or in nothing, depending on the weather. Their grass houses were well-constructed, spacious and dome-shaped; the beds were on

frames; and they boiled or roasted all their food. Their planked canoes were unique, made with no tools but shells and flints. Whalebone wedges were used to split wooden planks and to pry abalone off rocks. Fish hooks were made of abalone shell. Their baskets were watertight and highly prized. They were an intelligent and peaceful people.

Juan Cabrillo anchored off Malibu Lagoon in 1542 and, without asking anyone's permission, claimed this land for the King of Spain. He named the town and lagoon in the ship's log, *Pueblo de las Canoas*, Town of the Canoes, because of the many well-crafted canoes that rowed out to meet his ship. Three days later he sailed away and the Chumash were blessed, as no other Europeans dropped by for more than 200 years.

In the 1770s King Charles III of Spain was feeling threatened by the English ships exploring the California coast and the Russians pushing down from the north. He sent Juan Bautista de Anza to lead an expedition north from Mexico with 250 people to settle in California. They made camp under the oak trees by Malibu Creek in February 1776.

José Bartolome Tapia, then in his teens, was a member of the de Anza expedition. When the group went on to Northern California, he joined the army and, in 1800, applied for a land grant to the area he had seen called Malibu. Tapia called the land Rancho Malibu; he and his wife and family lived on Vaquero Flats and raised cattle.

In 1844 Leon Victor Prudhomme, 22 years old, arrived in Los Angeles from France. He went to work for Tibúrcio Tapia, son of now-deceased José. When Tapia died three years later, his only daughter, 16-year-old Maria, married Prudhomme. The following year her grandmother, José's widow, sold Rancho Malibu to the young couple.

The deed was signed January 24, 1848, the day gold was discovered in California. For some years times were good, and cattle driven north from Rancho Malibu sold for incredible prices to the miners. But the boom was followed by a bust: in 1857 there was a depression.

Prudhomme sold the entire ranch to Don Mateo Keller, an Irishman, in 1857 for $1,400, about 10¢ an acre, and Keller continued to raise cattle. When he died in 1892, his son, busy elsewhere, sold the beautiful coastal property to

Frederick Hastings Rindge for $10 an acre. There was no one to put in a claim for the Chumash, they were all dead, all signs of them except for scattered rock paintings eradicated.

FILM GLOSSARY

Foley Artist – The one who re-records sound effects, such as footsteps or door slams, on a Foley Stage, to be added to the final sound track during the sound mix.

The Early 20th Century

When you ride Amtrak south from San Luis Obispo the railroad tracks hug the coastline most of the way until they reach Oxnard, 20 miles north of Malibu. There they turn abruptly inland to continue to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles. The reason for that is the Rindge family's determination to protect the sanctity of Rancho Malibu a century ago. When F.H. Rindge died in 1905, his widow, May, began a 20-year struggle to keep Malibu pristine.

The Southern Pacific Railroad had a line running from Los Angeles west to its Long Wharf, where ships loaded cargo in Santa Monica. It was only natural that its tracks coming south would link up by running along the coast through Malibu. But a little-known law prevented a second railroad from duplicating an already existing rail line. So May built the piddling 15-mile-long Hueneme, Malibu and Port Los Angeles Railroad, which, though it consisted of only a few flat cars and a small gasoline engine, stopped the mighty Southern Pacific in its tracks, as it were.

By that time her fight to prevent a coast highway from being built through Malibu had also begun. Suddenly there were more automobiles around, and people wanted a shortcut up the coast to get to Ventura and Santa Barbara. But May Rindge didn't want hordes coming through her property. Trespassing had already escalated to cattle rustling, vandalism and fires; the big ranch house had been burned

down. May put locked gates across the existing private dirt road, and had armed guards patrol on horseback. The newspapers called her "Queen of the Malibu." She brought four cases to the California Supreme Court and two to the US Supreme Court, but in the end she lost; a county road was opened in the early '20s, and Pacific Coast Highway in 1929. Today, the sandstone cliffs that loom over most of the length of the highway as it goes through Malibu are unstable and often crash down after a rain, blocking the road in the same places May Rindge's fences and armed guards blocked it 80 years ago.

Bringing It Up to Date

When Malibu was developed in the 1920s the lots sold to stars became the "Malibu Movie Colony."

Malibu's modern development began in 1928. The first tract of land along the beach just above Malibu Lagoon was offered exclusively to movie stars, to set the tone for what this priceless place was to become. Anna Q. Nilsson built first. Ronald Colman, Jackie Coogan and Dolores del Rio followed, soon joined by Warner Baxter, Constance Bennett, Clara Bow, Gary Cooper, John Gilbert, Mervyn Leroy, Harold Lloyd, Barbara Stanwyck, Gloria Swanson and Jack Warner.

At the beginning no one lived here permanently; they built small beach houses for an average cost of $2,600. That stretch of beach became known as the Malibu Movie Colony, with gates and 24-hour security guards. Access to the Colony is a turn off from Pacific Coast Highway on Webb Way, which dead-ends a half-block later on Malibu Road. The Colony gates are to the left.

People who live in Malibu, no matter their degree of celebrity, eventually become fanatical about the place. Malibu has a lot of obvious advantages. It is very near a huge metropolitan area yet offers a great deal of privacy; it has some lovely beaches, and a Mediterranean climate the rest of the country would kill for. But it also has a propensity for disasters.

Every few years, usually around the Christmas season during a Santa Ana wind, a fire sweeps over those chaparral-covered, largely impenetrable mountains to the east and burns down a few dozen to a few hundred expensive homes. The following year, at the first rain, mud slides

down the now-bare mountain slopes and takes out more homes. Many of the beach houses, most of them up on pilings in the sand, have their foundations washed out by fierce periodic storms coming in off the Pacific.

We have friends who live up in the hills off Big Rock Road. A big fire about six years ago destroyed their house, leaving only the concrete slab it was built on. We asked what they were going to do. "Oh," they replied, "we're going to build the same house at the same place. We love it!"

Malibu real estate agents say outsiders come in after a fire, thinking they will be able to pick up bargains. But there are no bargains because no one is selling. That's loyalty.

Getting Here

From LAX

By Car

Get onto Sepulveda Boulevard at the airport, and go left at Lincoln Boulevard, at the northern edge of the airport; then go through Westchester and Marina del Rey. At Washington Boulevard turn left onto Pacific Avenue; this is the last traffic light before the ocean. Go right on Pacific through Venice and into Santa Monica (Pacific Avenue's name changes in Santa Monica to Neilson Way, then to Ocean Avenue, but it is always the same street).

In Santa Monica, pass Pico Boulevard and turn left at the next light, going downhill onto Pacific Coast Highway; then continue north to Malibu.

If traffic is moving along it should take about 45 minutes. If it is the rush hour (approximately 4-7pm), or if there is an accident on PCH, or road work, or a rock slide, take a good book along.

By Bus

It is not realistic to stay in Malibu without a car.

Take the free shuttle bus to Lot C, and transfer to Santa Monica Big Blue Bus #3, get off at 4th Street and Colorado Boulevard, transfer to MTA Bus #434 going west on Colorado. Time to Malibu Civic Center is about 75 minutes at midday, longer at rush hours.

By Shuttle

The fare averages $25 for the first person, $10 for each additional person. Pick up the shuttle at the island in front of each of the terminals. **Prime Time Shuttle**, ☎ 800-733-8267, www.primetimeshuttle.com.

By Taxi

The fare is about $35 plus a $2.50 airport fee from LAX to Malibu. **Malibu Taxi**, ☎ 310-456-0500, charges $35 from Malibu to LAX, and $45 from LAX to Malibu, "because of the airport fee."

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Malibu covers about 20 square miles, and the land outside city limits, which also calls itself Malibu, takes in another 40 to 60 square miles.

Who Lives Here?

Everyone knows Malibu is where the stars live. Ten years ago, as we would drive up Pacific Coast Highway (Highway 1, or PCH) through one of those stretches where we were just 100 feet from the ocean but unable to see it because of a wall of homes between the road and the water, we always knew which was Steve Martin's house because

his was the only roof that sprouted a satellite dish. Now rooftop dishes are as ubiquitous as surfers.

Unlike the earliest days, celebrities now live not just in the Colony but all over Malibu. It will be helpful to have a mental picture of how Malibu is laid out. As you drive up Pacific Coast Highway from Santa Monica, Malibu starts just past Topanga Canyon. First there is a long stretch of houses packed close together on the left, on a small bluff overlooking the beach (or just rocks in some places where there is no beach). Occasionally there is a break, where a stream comes down the mountains or for some reason houses couldn't be built there, so you have a view of the ocean. There is nothing on the right but the raw cliff, with houses in the hills above, most with magnificent views of the coastline and ocean.

Steve Martin and Burt Reynolds live on the beach side along here; Bruce Willis and Shirley MacLaine farther on. Olivia Newton-John has quite a large place in the hills in the Big Rock area. Jeff Bridges, George Wendt of *Cheers*, and Kris Kristofferson have homes in the hills past Big Rock. Sean Penn lives up above Carbon Beach.

After the coast, which has been tending westward, turns more to the north at Duke's Restaurant, the highway broadens and there are businesses on your right until you come to the Malibu Pier. After that is Cross Creek Road, a small business section, with the Colony and Malibu Road to your left.

Also to your right, but south of Malibu Creek, is the Serra Retreat high up on the hill where the Rindge family built their mansion. Charles Bronson lives near here and keeps horses on the hill.

In the Colony and along the beach live celebrities like Dyan Cannon, Bruce Dern, Adam Sandler, Whoopi Goldberg, Cher, Suzanne Somers (who has 90 feet of beachfront where the average lot has about 40 feet), Courteney Cox (*Friends*) and her husband, David Arquette (*The Grey Zone*). Add Tom Hanks, Mel Gibson, Dick Clark, Kelsey Grammer and Jaclyn Smith. Walter Matthau had his home on the beach, and Ed Begley Jr. and comic-actor Howie Mandel both recently sold their homes in the Colony. Jack Warden spends weekends at his Colony home, mainly for the tennis.

Former Malibu Mayor Tom Hasse said: "Malibu is only about a mile wide. We're like a big, long string bean of a city."

Pepperdine University, though only 100 yards from the beach, opted to stay outside the City of Malibu when it was formed.

The civic center is just past Cross Creek Road; Pepperdine University sprawls over the top of the hill ahead. This is also where Malibu Canyon Road heads north toward the San Fernando Valley. Continue on PCH to where the highway rolls down to the next cove and you see the end of Malibu Road, which joins Pacific Coast Highway here. You can exit from it to PCH, if you have chosen to drive along Malibu Road, which hugs the beach, but you cannot enter it here.

ABOUT PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

When the annual *Princeton Review* ranking of colleges nationwide came out last year it listed Malibu's Pepperdine this way:

- 5th for students who pray the most
- 11th for happiest students
- 15th for students who (almost) never study

Everyone assumes that the Smothers Theatre at Pepperdine University was named for the Smothers Brothers, but 'twas Frances D. Smothers, a benefactor.

North of Pepperdine, Malibu goes back more than a mile into the mountains, with wide upland pastures that have broad views over the ocean. The highway is farther inland from the edge of the bluff so there are larger estates on the ocean side. Director James Cameron (*Titanic*), for instance, last year bought 500 acres of pastureland with two small houses on the inland side. And if you think you might like to rent a place when you are here, the bluff-top home of Richard Gere and Carey Lowell, of *Law & Order*, is available as we write this. It has two guest houses, a pool and tennis court and 90 feet of private beach with a cottage on the sand. It rents for $75,000 a month in July and August.

Continue on PCH; when you come to Kanan-Dume Road splitting off into the mountains (a great mountain drive if you want to end up in tamed and manicured Westlake Village) you know you have reached Point Dume. The highway is well away from the beach here, leaving a great deal of space for homes on rural lanes. One tends to think that stars must have huge, palatial homes, but that is not always so. Rod Steiger lives here in a very nice, one-story house surrounded by a lot of foliage. It is ordinary looking

rather than an outstanding eye-catcher, but really comfortable.

Johnny Carson lives in Point Dume, as do Pierce Brosnan, Dick Van Dyke, Martin Sheen, Lou Gossett Jr., Craig T. Nelson and Henry Gibson. Barbra Streisand and husband James Brolin have a three-acre place on the bluff on the ocean side of the highway in Point Dume. Here, too, rather than something visually overwhelming and out of scale, you'll find a few old-fashioned, low-slung farmhouses surrounded by gardens with an emphasis on native, drought-resistant plants.

Streisand bought her first place in Malibu almost 30 years ago, on the inland side of PCH in Ramirez Canyon. There was first a modest residence on the property called "The Barn." Over the years she added more land, built a recording studio, a bigger house and several guest cottages. She brought in 1,000 trees to join the native sycamores and relocated Ramirez Creek. By the time she moved out it was a stunning estate, which she donated to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. You can take a two-hour guided tour of the property at 5750 Ramirez Canyon Road; the cost is $30. ☎ 310-589-2850.

Although the sign as you enter Malibu proclaims "27 miles of beaches," it is actually only 19.9 miles as the crow flies.

The highway continues north, going downhill to Zuma Beach, a long, long gated strand, much used by surfers and swimmers from the San Fernando Valley (those from metropolitan Los Angeles and the West Los Angeles area tend to go to Santa Monica and Venice beaches). The beach and area just past Zuma is Trancas.

Fires are not allowed on any Los Angeles County beaches, which includes Malibu.

If you continue, you will come to Broad Beach Road, which is especially thick with celebrities; it branches off PCH to run along the beach. Goldie Hawn, Tom Hanks, Sylvester Stallone and Steven Spielberg live on Broad Beach. Robert Redford sold his large place last year, along with the next door lot he bought from Neil Simon to protect his view, only to buy a smaller place in the same area.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Trancas and Broad Beach are Malibu's northern border. Past here is Leo Carrillo State Park and Beach and then the Ventura County line; after that you are on your way to Oxnard, Ventura and Santa Barbara.

On Location

Film shoots in Malibu are mostly on the beaches, with an occasional scene done at Malibu Creek State Park and in Malibu Canyon. Paradise Cove and Malibu Lagoon State Beach are where Hollywood's mythic version of the Los Angeles beach scene began – Annette Funicello romped on the sand in Paradise Cove in *Pajama Party*. (Paradise Cove is north of Geoffrey's Restaurant; there is a traffic light on PCH and a road going down to the beach.) The 1960s beach-flick craze went on with *Beach Blanket Bingo*, *Beach Party* and *Muscle Beach Party*. Then there was the beach-blanket revival movement with *Back to the Beach*.

Later Robert Redford and Barbra Streisand filmed scenes for *The Way We Were* at Paradise Cove, and Redford was here again in *Indecent Proposal*. Other films using Malibu locations include *Apollo 13*, *The Net*, *Deep Rising* and *Lethal Weapon 4*.

While other television series have filmed individual episodes at Paradise Cove, *Rockford Files* became a permanent tenant. Jim Rockford's trailer was part of the action on the sand here for 125 episodes in the 1970s and six movies in the 1990s, surviving storms, wildfires, mud slides and earthquakes.

City of Angels has some scenes filmed at Nicholas Canyon Beach; *Bounce* and *Pearl Harbor* used the beach below Point Dume; and a number of *Baywatch* episodes were filmed at Surfrider Beach, near the Malibu Pier.

Just inland, on the other side of the Pacific Coast Highway, is where a number of big films shot key scenes: *How the West Was Won*, *The Swiss Family Robinson*, *Planet of*

the Apes, *M*A*S*H*, and *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

Best Places to Stay

Malibu tends to astonish and disappoint those who have never before seen it, and yet its very name remains, in the imagination of people all over the world, a kind of shorthand for the easy life. I had not before 1971 and will probably not again live in a place with a Chevrolet named after it.

– Joan Didion, *Quiet Days in Malibu*

There is only one real hotel in Malibu, a small one, plus an inn and a few motels. How can that be? Every hotel chain in the country would love to plant a 20-story Hilton, Sheraton or Marriott on one of these fabulous beaches in this place that exudes world-wide publicity on a daily basis. Well, there is a story behind that.

Just as two generations of the Rindge family fought to maintain their own little paradise by keeping outsiders outside where they belonged, the first celebrities who were allowed to buy land here valued Malibu for the privacy it afforded them, the opportunity to be themselves without thousands of curious eyes watching their every move. That privacy depended partly on its remoteness, and the fact that the Rindge family had kept it primitive. For instance, each house had to have its own septic tank. Voila! The lowly, not-mentioned-in-polite-company septic tank turned out to be Malibu's salvation.

The accommodations price scale can be found on page 39.

A big development like a hotel can't make it with a simple septic tank buried in the ground; it would immediately be overwhelmed. So the first time a large development wanted to build on the beach, Los Angeles County obligingly proposed to extend its sewer lines to Malibu. (Los Angeles' governments, both city and county, have never met a land development scheme they didn't like.) But there was a catch: there is a law that a majority of the homeowners who will have to pay for the new sewer line must vote in favor.

Malibu's residents voted down the proposal for a sewer line, and for the past 80 years have continued to vote it

Overnight camping is allowed at Leo Carrillo State Park, just north of Malibu.

down every time the idea is reintroduced. It is the reason Malibu became an independent city in 1991: it was the only way the residents could stop the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, who were once again bent on forcing a sewer line and inevitable over-development on Malibu. Cityhood won easily. Malibu still has no sewers – and no big hotels.

MALIBU BEACH INN
22878 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, CA 90265
☎ 310-456-6444, 800-4-MALIBU, Canada 800-255-1007, fax 310-456-1499
www.malibubeachinn.com
Expensive

They call it "A small hotel on the beach." The long, low, three-story building is in Spanish-Moorish style with lots of tile and a soft beige color with a tile roof. The lobby floor is covered with big Mexican tiles. There are some good pieces of silver and turquoise available in the hotel's Native American Jewelry Gallery.

We like the rooms. Every one has a private balcony, and cane furniture that makes it feel like a cottage on the beach, rather than a hotel room. Some of the rooms have a two-person Jacuzzi on the balcony. The hotel is just south of the Malibu Pier, so that is in the foreground when the sun goes down over Point Dume. It can be a romantic spot.

Continental breakfast is complimentary, either in the lobby or out on the terrace overlooking the ocean. We thought that was a very nice way to start the day, and the thick terrycloth robes they provided were a nice way to end it.

MALIBU COUNTRY INN
6506 Westward Beach Road
Malibu, CA 90265
☎ 310-457-9622, 800-FUN-N-SURF, fax 310-457-1349
www.malibucountryinn.com
Moderate-Expensive

This place, well off the highway on a quiet bluff over the ocean, is a romantic country hideaway. The inn has nine standard garden-view rooms, two rooms with Jacuzzi tub, and five one-room suites with fireplace and Jacuzzi. All

rooms have a refrigerator and coffee maker. There is a swimming pool, a rose garden and complimentary continental breakfast. A poolside restaurant, the **Hideaway Café**, serves breakfast and lunch daily, 8:30am-2:30pm.

To get here, take Pacific Coast Highway past Kanan-Dume Road to Heather Cliff Road, which is the next traffic light. PCH goes steeply downhill here. At the bottom of the hill take Westward Beach Road to the left, just before the entrance to Zuma Beach parking lot.

TONI BERGET
☎ 310-457-7119, 818-790-7788

Toni is not a real estate agent, but she owns a few houses that are available for short-term rental. There are two places in Point Dume with fabulous views over Zuma Beach and the ocean, and a two-bedroom place in the Malibu Colony with an ocean view. Rentals are approximately $200 a night for a one-bedroom, higher for a two-bedroom, with rates by the week or month.

Best Places to Eat

Fine Dining

I never drink... wine. – Bela Lugosi, *Dracula*

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

★★ **GEOFFREY'S**
27400 Pacific Coast Highway
☎ 310-457-1519
California
Expensive

At Geoffrey's you'll enjoy great views of the coast and ocean, especially at sunset, along with excellent food; it's a natural habitat of celebrities. The menu is heavy with fish, but also offers filets for meat eaters. Open Monday-Friday, noon-9:30pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11am-9:30pm. If you take the Pacific Coast Highway from Santa Monica, Geoffrey's is up the next hill past Pepperdine. Go past the restaurant and make a U-turn.

★★ GRANITA

Malibu Colony Plaza
23725 Malibu Road
☎ 310-456-0488
California-Provençal
Expensive

Granita is an Italian shaved ice dessert.

Granita is a very popular restaurant for those who live in Malibu. The menu is strong on fish and seafood, but there are also chops, steak and even short ribs, and, since Wolfgang Puck owns the place, there is a wood-burning oven putting out several kinds of his signature exotic pizzas. It is a large place with an open kitchen, a lounge and bar upstairs, and front and side patios used in season. The restaurant is open for lunch, Saturday-Sunday, 11am-2:30pm; and for dinner, weeknights, 6-11pm; Saturday-Sunday, 5:30-11:30pm. Reservations are a must. Go out Pacific Coast Highway, past the Malibu Pier to Webb Way; the restaurant is in the shopping center.

★★ BEAURIVAGE

26025 Pacific Coast Highway
☎ 310-456-5733
Mediterranean
Expensive

Daniel Forge, a delightful man with a charming French accent, opened this place at the mouth of Corral Canyon 20 years ago when Mediterranean dining was unknown in Los Angeles. But after the first few years of confusion – food critics insisted on calling his menu continental or French – this has been a consistently valued restaurant by those who live in Malibu.

Beaurivage has the most extensive wine list in Malibu.

On one of our visits, Heather Locklear was having her birthday party in the wine cellar, which many, like Pamela Anderson of *Baywatch*, prefer for dining. There is also a patio and an upstairs terrace with a good view of the ocean, as well as the main dining room. Malibu is thick with celebrities and there are only a few really good restaurants, which is why people like Johnny Carson, Barbra Streisand and Jim Brolin, Robert Redford and dozens more drop in here for dinner. Beaurivage is open nightly for dinner, and on Sundays for brunch. There is a pianist

on weeknights. Reservations advised, especially on weekends.

★★ **SADDLE PEAK LODGE**
419 Cold Canyon Road
☎ 310-456-7325, 818-222-3888
Game
Expensive

A romantic lodge in the country that draws couples, including celebrity couples, as it has for many years. It began as a cabin more than 100 years ago, was a general store, then in the 1920s was a roadhouse that drew the starlets and stars who were shooting at the nearby ranches owned by Paramount, Warner Bros. and 20th Century Fox. Charlie Chaplin and Mary Pickford, Errol Flynn and Clark Gable, Ernest Borgnine, Milton Berle and more found this "in" place. There are lots of stories; we are not sure if we believe that Richard Burton, and at another time the Hollywood Rat Pack, fed the coyotes with buffalo bones thrown from the back terraces at night.

Inside the atmosphere is rustic, with heavy, hand-hewn wood beams, rock walls, and mounted animal heads. They have always offered the kind of meals a hunting lodge should serve: rack of venison, roasted elk tenderloin, wild boar, pheasant, Sonoma duck and always a halibut or salmon dish. The lodge is open Tuesday-Sunday nights for dinner. From the Westside, take the Pacific Coast Highway to Malibu Canyon Road, go 4½ miles to Piuma Road (there is a traffic light), right ¾ mile to Cold Canyon Road, and turn left. From the Valley, take the Ventura Freeway (101) past Calabasas to Las Virgenes Road, turn left and go five miles to Piuma Road, then another left for ¾ mile.

★★ **TRA DI NOI**
3835 South Cross Creek Road
☎ 310-456-0169
Italian
Expensive

This is Dennis Weaver's favorite place when he is in Malibu. The restaurant not only has good pasta, but does good things with fish, too. Cross Creek is the little shopping area on the right when you come up PCH from the Santa

Monica direction. Start watching after you pass the Malibu Pier. Open daily, noon-10pm.

Casual Dining

CANYON GROCERY & GRILL
2598 Sierra Creek Road
☎ 818-991-0818
Hot dogs, burritos, fish & chips
Inexpensive

Take scenic Kanan-Dume Road from Malibu; from Point Dume the road punches through three tunnels to get through the straight-up mountains and then plunges down into the Agoura Valley. At the bottom of the hill, where Sierra Creek Road branches off, sits the only structure on the entire length of the Kanan-Dume Road. Owner Alladin Premji calls it "the Brown Derby of the mountains," because everybody who lives around here comes in at one time or another since it is all there is. Nick Nolte lives around here, and Mel Gibson just bought some property, though Alladin tells us there are more rockers than movie stars, people like Tommy Lee of Motley Crüe.

Whenever we go to Westlake we try to arrange it so we come back through the canyon around noon, and stop to order a huge, oozing burrito, or a messy chili dog, and eat it outside under the sycamores. Open daily, 10am-8pm.

★ TIP

The 10K Dolphin Run is held every fall in Malibu to benefit local charities. If you would like to participate, or just watch, phone ☎ 310-450-8540.

Shopping

One would naturally think that with Malibu's wealthy, fashion-conscious population it must be a shopping mecca with expensive boutiques around every corner. That isn't really the case. In fact, the best places to shop here are in

the food markets, where you are more likely to see stars among the succotash than in any other markets in the country.

★★ **RALPH'S MARKET**
23841 Malibu Road
☎ 310-456-2917

When you drive up Pacific Coast Highway past Malibu Pier and Surfriders Beach and past Cross Creek shopping area on the right, the next street is Webb Way. The big market in the long shopping area on your left, on the other side of Webb Way, is Ralph's. It is one of a chain, they have dozens of sizeable markets like this all over Los Angeles. But because there are so many stars living in a small area (Malibu's population is only 12,000), and Ralph's is the only complete market, you are likely to find the most celebrities shopping here.

Services

Health & Fitness

Malibu Gym, 28955 Pacific Coast Highway, is a very well-equipped place to work out, with 12,500 feet of space and equipment: two steam rooms (male and female), cardiovascular room, an aerobics floor, and classes in yoga, tai chi and body sculpting. At the corner of Kanan-Dume Road and PCH. ☎ 310-457-2450.

Malibu Health, Fitness Center and Spa, 22917 Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 220, has a gym and health services. They offer more than a dozen types of massage, facial treatments, mud baths, seaweed baths; yoga, stretch and other classes, and fitness instructors, Olympic free weights and boxing training. Near the pier on the inland side of PCH. ☎ 310-456-7721.

Sunup to Sundown

The **Farmers' Market** is open every Sunday from May-October, 11am-3pm, at the Malibu Civic Center. Turn

right at the traffic light at Webb Way (½ mile north of Malibu Pier); there's plenty of easy parking. Both organic and non-organic fresh fruit and vegetables are offered. Malibu-grown is preferred, so you will find local avocados and fresh-cut flowers. There is a food court for stuff to eat now; it may be Greek or grilled ears of corn, it changes. (Malibu's proceeds from the farmers' market go to plant gardens in elementary schools, and teach kids organic gardening.)

Malibu's Dan Blocker Beach is named after the co-star of the television series Bonanza.

This is where you will see stars with their hair down – or sometimes with it up. As a friend of ours said, "At the farmers' market you see stars only if you pay attention." He was at the market the previous Sunday and saw Suzanne Somers, only there she was just another neighbor wearing jeans and tennies, with her hair up under a baseball cap. Kelsey Grammer was easier to recognize the last time we were there. Dick Van Dyke, Shirley MacLaine and Mel Gibson are in attendance fairly often. ☎ 310-457-4537.

At **Adventures on Horseback**, 2666 Triunfo Canyon Road, Agoura Hills, ☎ 818-889-6918, a dozen different rides are offered at various skill levels, morning and night, through canyons and foothills. Several trips visit the Paramount Ranch, where *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman* was filmed, and one ride is along the Malibu Creek Trail, which was the film site for the series *M*A*S*H*. There are romantic sunset rides for couples, and some for children as well. To get here, take Kanan-Dume Road off Pacific Coast Highway; Triunfo is just west of Sierra Creek Road and Rustic Canyon Grocery & Grill. If you are in the San Fernando Valley you can catch Kanan-Dume off the Ventura Freeway (Highway 101).

Surfriders Beach, Zuma Beach and Leo Carrillo Beach are the most popular beaches in Malibu.

The best-known surfing beach in the country is here at **Surfriders Beach**, just north of the Malibu Pier. This is where Duke Kahanamoku brought his long board from Hawaii in 1926 and introduced surfing to the world. Though much of the year the waves are not exceptionally large, certainly nothing like the ones on Oahu, because of the slope of the bottom there are very long waves to ride. You will find surfers from around the world who are drawn here. We have *never* driven past on PCH that there weren't surfers in the water, patiently waiting, and wait-

ing, and waiting for that perfect wave. Park on Pacific Coast Highway.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

Though surfing was first introduced in Huntington Beach 30 miles to the south, it was in Malibu in 1926 that the daring new sport became popular.

If you are here any time from February to early April, Point Dume is one of the best places along the Pacific Coast to see the **whales** migrating back north after their long trek from Alaska's Bering Sea to the warm mating and breeding lagoons of Baja California. Whales often pass less than 100 yards from shore; because deep water is close to shore here they sometimes come within 20 feet offshore to rub the barnacles attached to their skin off on the sand. Most of the whales are Pacific Gray and blue, but you can also see sperm, killer, finback and humpback whales. Like sighting celebrities, it is a matter of luck if any are passing by at the time you are here, but dolphins, sea lions and pelicans are often also here in abundance.

Take Pacific Coast Highway to Westward Beach Road, past the little Point Dume shopping area at the top of the hill and on down to the bottom of the hill just before Zuma Beach. Follow the road to Westward Beach, where parking is $5. Sit on the beach (near Lifeguard Station #1 is best) or climb the trail to the headlands for a view farther out. Bring binoculars. More info: Point Dume Lifeguard Station, ☎ 310-457-9891.

Half-day and full-day cruises to the Channel Islands can be taken from Oxnard Marina, 20 miles north of Malibu.

Malibu Kayak Rentals, 22935 Pacific Coast Highway, rents both one- and two-person kayaks, scuba gear and fishing tackle. Open daily, 10am-6pm. Near Malibu Pier on the inland side of the highway. ☎ 310-456-6302.

★ TIP

In late July each year the Malibu Arts Festival, 23545 Civic Center Way, ☎ 310-456-9025, presents original art, photography and crafts. The festival is held between Cross Creek Road and Webb Way.

After Dark

MALIBU STAGE COMPANY
29243 Pacific Coast Highway
☎ 310-289-2999

The theater is housed in an odd building, a converted '70s-style Lutheran church. The company presents good, usually well-known plays on weekends.

The Beach Communities A to Z

Automotive Service

Topanga Central Auto Service, 106 South Topanga Canyon Boulevard, ☎ 310-455-1568.

Cameras

Venice Camera Exchange, 2417 Lincoln Boulevard, Venice (near South Venice Boulevard), ☎ 310-821-5611.

Dog Park

Westminster Dog Park, Westminster and Main streets, Venice (three blocks north of the Windward Traffic Circle), is a block-and-a-half long, half-block wide, fenced park

where dogs can run off the leash. It is one of the few on the Westside, and is extremely popular with dog owners.

E-mail, Fax & Internet Services

Global Gossip, 80 Windward Avenue, Venice, ☎ 310-450-5019, fax 310-450-5935, www.globalgossip.com. A place to keep in touch with the folks back home.

Hospitals

Freeman Marina Hospital, ☎ 310-823-8911, in Marina del Rey, has 24-hour emergency facilities. Other area medical centers include **Santa Monica UCLA Hospital**, ☎ 310-319-4000; **St. John's Hospital**, Santa Monica, ☎ 310-829-5511; and **Topanga Medical Clinic**, 395 South Topanga Canyon Boulevard, ☎ 310-455-2019.

Lifeguards

Emergency numbers for local beaches: **Marina del Rey**, **Topanga Beach**, and **Santa Monica**, ☎ 310-394-3261; Malibu (including Corral Beach, Nicholas Canyon, Point Dume and Zuma Beach), ☎ 310-475-2525; **Leo Carrillo Beach**, ☎ 310-488-0887.

Locksmith

Malibu Locksmith, 22775 Pacific Coast Hwy., ☎ 310-456-7045.

Newspapers

The Argonaut, Marina del Rey . . . . . ☎ 310-822-1629
The Messenger, Topanga Canyon . . . . . ☎ 310-455-1303

Newsstand

Malibu Newsstand, 23717½ Malibu Road, ☎ 310-456-1519, has domestic and foreign publications; it's on the side of the Bank of America building; open daily, 8am-8pm.

Parks & Recreation Facilities

Malibu Parks & Recreation, ☎ 310-317-1364

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, ☎ 310-456-5046

Malibu Beach RV Park, 25801 Pacific Coast Highway, ☎ 310-456-6052. Some daily, weekly rental spaces. Reserve ahead.

Police & Fire

Emergency . . . . . ☎ 911
Crime Reporting . . . . . ☎ 800-78-CRIME
Poison Control . . . . . ☎ 800-876-4766
Suicide Prevention . . . . ☎ 310-391-1253, 877-727-4747
LA County Sheriff's Department . . . . ☎ 310-823-7762
Malibu Sheriff's Station . . . . . ☎ 310-456-6652
Santa Monica Police . . . . . ☎ 310-458-8491
Topanga Canyon Police . . . . . ☎ 818-756-8543
Venice Police. . . . . ☎ 310-451-5273

Public Transportation

Culver City Bus Line, ☎ 310-253-6500; recorded information, ☎ 310-253-6510.

MTA (Los Angeles) . . . . . ☎ 213-626-4455
Santa Monica Bus Co. . . . . . ☎ 310-451-5444

Time & Weather

Time . . . . . ☎ 310-853-1212
Surfing Conditions . . . . . ☎ 310-578-0478
Weather . . . . . ☎ 213-554-1212

Veterinary Services

Malibu Animal Hospital, 23431 Pacific Coast Highway, ☎ 310-456-6441.

Visitor Information

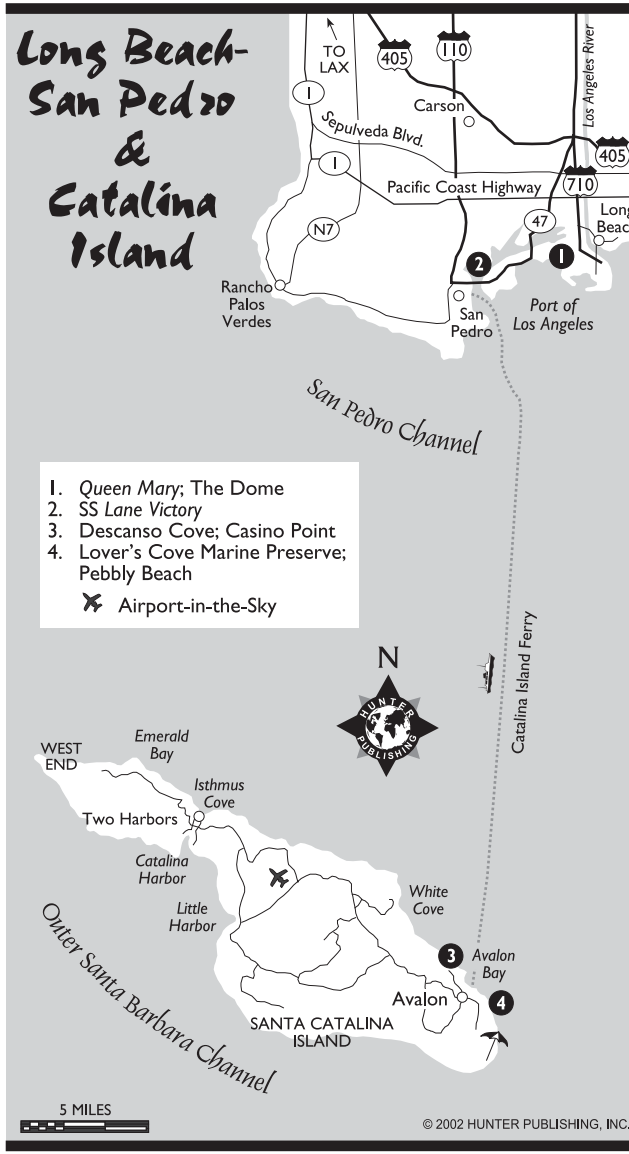
LA County/Marina del Rey Beaches & Harbors Visitors Center, 4701 Admiralty Way (corner of Mindanao Way), ☎310-305-9545. Open daily, 9am-5pm.

Venice Boardwalk Association, 8 Horizon Avenue, Venice, CA 90291; ☎ 310-392-4687 ext. 6; fax 310-399-4512; www.westland.net/Venice.

Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1400 Ocean Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90401, ☎ 310-393-7593, www.santamonica.com.

Topanga Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 185, Topanga, CA 90290 (does not take phone calls). Additional information available from the **Topanga Historical Society**, ☎ 310-455-1969, or on the Web at www.topangaonline.com.

Malibu Chamber of Commerce, 23805 West Stuart Ranch Road, Malibu 90265, ☎ 310-456-9025.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1. Queen Mary; The Dome
2. SS Lane Victory
3. Descanso Cove; Casino Point
4. Lover's Cove Marine Preserve;
Pebbly Beach
Airport-in-the-Sky
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3
Avalon
Bay
Avalon
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SANTA CATALINA
ISLAND
Outer Santa Barbara Channel
5 MILES
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Day-Trips

There are a multitude of worthwhile places to go in Southern California outside the LA/Hollywood area. We have chosen a few sidetrips that are easy to get to and return from in one day, or where you can stay over if you would like. Each area has a fascinating history connected with the movies.

May August moon bring gentle sleep. Sayonara.

– Marlon Brando as Taki,
The Teahouse of the August Moon

Catalina Island

When you look out to the Pacific Ocean from the Hollywood Hills, that island you see off the coast to the south is Catalina. Mainlanders have been visiting the island for more than a century. And the ones who settle down to live there hardly ever want to return.

History

Different groups of Native Americans inhabited the island for over 7,000 years. In 1542 they were here to greet Don Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the first European explorer to arrive in the area. The island was named Santa Catalina 60 years later by Don Sebastian Viscaino after St. Catherine of Alexandria.

The 18th & 19th Centuries

In the 1790s, Americans, Russians and Aleut Indians hunted sea otter here in defiance of Spain. The island was a haven for Yankee smugglers during the Mexican era in the early 1800s. When the Americans took over California, squatters arrived with sheep and cattle.

Catalina was the Chicago Cubs' spring training camp while Wrigley owned both the team and the island.

Vacationers first showed up in the 1880s. William Wrigley Jr. bought the island in 1919 and made it an international fishing destination, as well as a center for tourism. But by the 1970s, as the popularity of the island increased, it became apparent that something must be done to preserve the island's charm. The Wrigley family deeded 88% of the land to a non-profit conservancy they formed in order to preserve and protect the island's native plants and animals.

Bringing It Up to Date

The Catalina Island fox is a much smaller version of the mainland gray fox, and is found only here.

Today, almost all permanent residents live in the town of **Avalon**, with a few at **Two Harbors**. The rest of the island is much as it was when the first European explorers arrived. The ground squirrels, quail and Catalina Island Fox are indigenous; the wild pigs, goats and deer are not.

The non-native plants and animals have been very destructive of the unique native species. Goats were brought over by Spanish missionaries in the 1800s, and over the next two centuries their grazing wreaked havoc on the island's topography. A decade ago there were more than 5,000; now, all but two females have been captured and removed. The last 300 tusked and shaggy feral pigs are targeted for removal. Of the 2,000 mule deer – descendants of the original 19 brought over in 1930 – about 850 are left.

FLYING FISH

The season to see flying fish is from April to September.

Catalina's flying fish are the world's largest; they can be up to 18 inches long, with bluish bodies and iridescent wings. Escaping underwater predators, the fish swims its fastest – up to 20 miles an hour – then as he breaks the surface wriggles his big tail fin for a final burst of speed. Most of the airborne fish a visitor sees are fleeing an approaching boat. On a calm day a flying fish can glide 75 yards through the air.

Catalina is a pleasant, small resort area with a mild climate and none of the pressures of the big city. For instance, there is not enough room for many cars in the

small town of Avalon, so the number is capped; residents get on a 10-year waiting list for a permit to import a car. In the meantime, most people, including tourists, get around in motorized golf carts.

Catalina Islanders refer to Los Angeles, across the water, as "overtown."

Sports and recreation are mostly on and under the water: boating, diving, fishing. There is a postage-stamp-size beach and pleasant walks. Bus tours of the island can take up much of a visitor's time.

There is a story about Avalon that pretty much puts this small resort town in perspective. There has been a Mexican-American population here dating back about 100 years; in the late 1980s the City Council decided there were too many illegal aliens living amongst the descendants of some of the early settlers, and they called for the Immigration Service and the Coast Guard to do something. Those two agencies conducted a 3am raid with scores of uniformed men that, sure enough, netted around 200 Spanish-speaking people. Some had been born in the US but could not produce papers, so they were all hauled away. And pleased City Council members thought the problem was solved.

Except that every hotel and restaurant owner in Avalon showed up at the next Council meeting shouting that they did not have anyone to make beds, serve meals or do any of the work that needed doing. They threatened to recall every member of the City Council if they did not get their workers back, illegal or not. (No one appears to have suggested that paying better wages would bring legal workers.) In any case, within a week all the original workers were back, and no one has mentioned citizenship since.

Getting Here

By Sea

Catalina Express provides year-round service from the Port of LA to Catalina, with 30 daily departures; the trip takes about an hour. Take the Harbor Freeway (110) south from Los Angeles to its end at San Pedro, then take the Terminal Island-Long Beach exit to Harbor Boulevard. Follow signs to the Catalina Terminal entrance across

Harbor Boulevard. Catalina Express, Berth 95, San Pedro, ☎ 319-519-1212, 800-481-3470 or 800-618-5533, www.catalinaexpress.com. Round-trip fare for adults is about $45; call for reservations.

By Air

The Airport-in-the-Sky is so called because it is perched atop the island's highest point.

Bravo Aviation offers chartered helicopter flights from LAX to Catalina's Airport-in-the-Sky. Round-trip, all-inclusive day packages are available; the minimum rate is $360. To book a flight, contact Bravo Aviation, ☎ 800-77-FLYING, www.bravoair.com.

Island Express Helicopter Service goes from San Pedro to Avalon; the trip takes 15 minutes. Day package available. Island Express, San Pedro Boat Terminals, ☎ 800-2-AVALON (800-228-2566).

★ TIP

The town of Avalon covers one square mile; its tight grid of narrow streets contains 300 businesses, including hotels and restaurants. It is an eminently walkable resort town.

Getting Around

By Bus

The area code for Catalina Island is 310, and the prefix for all island phone numbers is 510.

Catalina Safari Bus, ☎ 310-510-2800. Scheduled bus service between Avalon and Two Harbors, stops at beaches, trails, campgrounds and the airport.

By Taxi & Golf Cart

Catalina Island Taxi Services, ☎ 310-510-0025. Taxis for hire, six-passenger vans for charter to the interior.

Cartopia Golf Cart Rentals, ☎ 310-510-2493. Week day specials.

Catalina Auto & Bike Rental, corner of Metropole and Crescent, ☎ 310-510-0111.

Island Rentals, at Holly Hill House, 125 Pebbly Beach Road, ☎ 310-510-1456. Gas-powered golf carts for rent.

Catalina Island is eight miles wide at its widest, and 21 miles long, with 48 miles of coastline.

By Bicycle

Brown's Bikes, 107 Pebbly Beach Road (across from basketball courts), ☎ 310-510-0986. Rent mountain bikes, tandems, children's bikes, also strollers and wheelchairs. Hourly and daily rates.

Catalina Auto & Bike Rental, Crescent Avenue on the beach, ☎ 310-510-0111, has mountain bikes ($10/hour, $25/day) and beach bikes ($5-$10). Open 9am-5pm.

On Location

Unlike everywhere else in the Los Angeles area, where records were lost and no one bothered to keep track anyway, you can look up every movie, documentary, travel film, TV show and commercial that has ever been shot on Catalina Island. The number is creeping up on 300 and counting. The first was *Feeding the Seals* in 1910 (we doubt that it had a terribly complicated plot). A film about whaling was shot in 1911, and *Man's Genesis*, by D.W. Griffith, in 1912. Four short silents were filmed here in 1913, and there were 13 in 1914. And so it went.

Universal Pictures made the first silent American version of *Treasure Island* here in 1918, and Paramount shot *Terror Island*, with Harry Houdini, in 1920. The silent version of *The Ten Commandments* was filmed here in 1923, and Buster Keaton shot parts of *The Navigator* in 1924. *King of Kings* and *Ben Hur* were partially filmed here in 1925. The first take on Somerset Maugham's tale *Sadie Thompson* was done here in 1928, and the version with Joan Crawford, called *Rain*, in 1932. The great silent film *Seventh Heaven*, with Janet Gaynor, was shot here in 1928, and the unforgettable *Treasure Island* with Wallace Beery in 1933.

Several soap operas have been filmed on Catalina, including Days of Our Lives *in 2001.*

Catalina, looking so much like a South Pacific island and so close to Hollywood, was just right in 1935 for *Mutiny on*

Two Harbors, in the north end of Catalina Island, is a favorite place for filming.

the Bounty, with Clark Gable and Charles Laughton, and for *Captains Courageous* in 1937. Hope and Crosby were here for part of *Road to Singapore*, 1940; in 1949 the island's first TV show was filmed, which opened the floodgates; it was followed by *The Lawrence Welk Show*, *Queen for a Day*, *The Wackiest Ship in the Army*, *McHale's Navy*, *Cannon*, *Mannix* and *Barnaby Jones*. Feature films that have used Catalina as a location include *Jaws* and *Jaws II*, *Waterworld*, *Amistad*, and *Pearl Harbor* in 2000.

Sunup to Sundown

On & Under the Water

AVALON BOATSTAND/JOE'S RENT-A-BOAT
On the Pleasure Pier
☎ 310-510-0455
www.catalina.com/rent-a-boat.html

Catalina Island is 10° warmer than the mainland in winter, and 10° cooler in summer.

Visitors can rent boats for sightseeing, fishing, snorkeling and scuba diving; choose a motorboat, kayak, pedal boat or paddle board. Fishing tackle is also available to rent. Open daily, April-October.

CATALINA ADVENTURE TOURS
☎ 310-510-2888, 310-510-0409
www.catalinaadventuretours.com

Glass-bottom boat and Yellow Submarines cruise over the Undersea Garden, a state marine preserve where sea life cannot be picked, caught or molested.

CATALINA DIVERS SUPPLY
☎ 310-510-0330, 800-353-0330
www.catalina.com/cds, www.diveinfo.com/cds

Guided snorkeling tours, introductory scuba diving, scuba cat boat diving, scuba cat snorkeling; Green Pleasure Pier Dive Shop, complete scuba and snorkel rentals, air fills. Open daily.

CATALINA JETSKI & WAVERUNNER RENTALS
☎ 310-510-1922, 877-AQUAFUN

Personal watercraft are available for rent here. Look for the booth 100 yards from the boat terminal, opposite the baseball and volleyball courts, or at Joe's Rent-A-Boat at Green Pier.

A PIER IS A PIER IS A PIER...

Some call it the Pleasure Pier, some say it is the Green Pier, and others insist on Green Pleasure Pier. To make it easier to find, the pier and all the buildings on it are painted green. The place where the ferries from the mainland dock is not the pier, though; it's called the Mole.

CATALINA SCUBA LUV
126 Catalina Avenue
☎ 310-510-2350 (information); 800-262-DIVE (reservations, dive packages)
www.scubaluv.com

Introductory dives, instructors, rentals, airfills. Dive the kelp forests.

CATALINA SNORKELING ADVENTURES
Lover's Cove
☎ 877-SNORKEL (766-7535)
www.catalinasnorkeling.com

Snorkeling is done in the marine preserve, where the fish are protected. Rentals and tours. Open daily, April-October.

DESCANSO BEACH OCEAN SPORTS & CATALINA ISLAND KAYAK EXPEDITIONS
☎ 310-510-1226
www.kayakcatalinaisland.com

Kayak and snorkel rentals by hour or day; rentals include instructions. At Descanso Beach, close to secluded coves. Guided Natural History kayak trips, kids classes.

Descanso Beach and Cove are just north of Avalon Bay, around Casino Point.

DISCOVERY TOURS
☎ 310-510-TOUR
www.scico.com

Several different trips are offered by the Santa Catalina Island Company. The 45-minute **Undersea Tour** takes you out in a semi-submersible; their **Glass-bottom Boat Tour** explores Lover's Cove Marine Preserve kelp forest, and lasts 30 minutes. Take the **Sea Rocks Cruise**, 50 minutes, to see sea lions on the small islands off Catalina; 50 minutes, May-September. On the evening **Flying Fish Trip**, also 50 minutes, you'll see that fish really do fly; May-September. The 4½-hour **Sundown Isthmus Cruise** cruises the coastline to Two Harbors; you may see flying fish on this trip, too; May-September. Call for reservations and fee information.

A TOAST FOR THE MAYOR

Avalon is a small enough town that it had only one drunk, who was regarded as the official town drunk for around 40 years. One year at election time, during the 1980s, a lot of the bartenders and cocktail waitresses who knew him only too well got together and nominated him for mayor. He won, and for two years Avalon could boast it had what was undoubtedly the drunkest mayor of any place in the state.

HIGH TIDE TRADERS
415 Crescent, Avalon
☎ 310-510-1612

Fishing charters aboard a 35-foot sports fisher for local waters and offshore fishing; bait and tackle included.

ISLAND WATER CHARTERS
☎ 310-510-1707

Fishing out of Two Harbors.

SECOND WIND CHARTERS
☎ 310-510-1802
www.secondwindcharters.com

Cruise boats and fishing charters operate year-round on Catalina Island.

Sail on a 50-foot skippered sailing yacht, which accommodates two to six guests on trips from two to eight hours. Overnight packages are also available. Call for reservations.

ISLAND WATER CHARTERS
☎ 310-510-1707

This small, friendly company provides a full range of year-round water activities: fishing on a 21-foot Skipjack ($75/hour for two, with everything provided, including soda and beer), local and around-the-island cruises, snorkeling, wakeboarding, and diving. The boat is at Green Pleasure Pier, but call for reservations.

On Land

Casino

A half-dozen times a times a year, in summer, big bands play at the Casino for weekend dancing.

Not a gambling casino, this is where the Big Bands played in the 1930s and '40s. The **Catalina Island Museum**, ☎ 310-510-2414, with its photos of the history of the island, is in the Casino building, which is large enough to hold Catalina's entire year-round population. It's at Casino Point, and open daily, 10am-4pm, year-round. Museum admission is $2 for adults.

The Inn at Mt. Ada

Mt. Ada, the hill overlooking Avalon Bay, is named for Ada Wrigley, wife of the chewing gum magnate.

This classic home built by William Wrigley in 1921 is on top of the hill overlooking Avalon Bay on the south side. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it is now an inn. We have stayed here and it is by far the best place for an overnight in Avalon, with wonderful views of the harbor. 398 Wrigley Road, Avalon, ☎ 310-510-2030. Those having breakfast or lunch at the inn may enjoy a tour of the splendid old house; others are discouraged in order to

protect the privacy of overnight guests. Phone for meal reservations.

Zane Grey Hotel

The home of Western author Zane Grey has the original living room, fireplace and piano. On the hill on the north side of town, it is now a hotel with swimming pool and ocean views. 199 Chimes Tower Road, Avalon, ☎ 310-510-0966, 800-3-PUEBLO. Manager Michael Shehabi welcomes day-trippers and will give you a tour. There is no restaurant, however.

Shopping

Stroll **Crescent Avenue**, Avalon's main street, where you will find most of the island's shops and restaurants.

Tours

DISCOVERY TOURS
☎ 310-510-TOUR
www.scico.com

The Santa Catalina Island Company (SCICO) offers various bus and tram tours around the island, ranging from approximately one to four hours and costing between $12 and $45, depending on the tour selected. Call or check their Web site for details and reservations.

Fourteen buffalo were brought over in 1924 to use in a film called The Vanishing American. *Their 350 descendants are still here.*

CATALINA ADVENTURE TOURS
☎ 310-510-2888
www.catalinaadventuretours.com

This company offers bus tours of the island. Call for details and reservations.

CATALINA STABLES
600 Avalon Canyon Road
☎ 310-510-0478

Guided horseback rides are available through the mountains above Avalon. Open year-round.

JEEP ECO-TOURS
Catalina Island Conservancy
125 Claressa Avenue
☎ 310-510-2595, ext. 0

This company provides open Jeep tours of the island. Call for schedule and fee information.

Catalina Island has little fresh water; in times of drought it gets water by barge from the mainland.

Golf & Tennis

CATALINA ISLAND GOLF COURSE
Avalon
☎ 310-510-0530
www.scico.com

The nine-hole resort course is open for public play. Rental clubs and golf carts are available.

CATALINA RACQUET CLUB
Catalina Country Club
Avalon
☎ 310-510-0530

Two professional courts are available for public play. Open 7am until dark; court fee is $15 per hour. Call 24 hours in advance for reservations.

Long Beach-San Pedro

The Queen Mary

The *Queen Mary* was the most famous ship in the world from 1936 to 1967; she was a favorite of hundreds of celebrities and stars. When she was taken out of service she ended up at a special wharf in Long Beach, south of Los Angeles, where she is permanently docked as a sightseeing attraction and a remarkable hotel.

History

The Queen Mary *was the fastest passenger ship, going from Southampton to New York in less than four days, a world record she held for 14 years.*

She was called the Queen of the Atlantic, the largest and most luxurious ship ever built up to that time. She carried kings and potentates and movie stars galore, among them Fred Astaire, Richard Burton, Charlie Chaplin, H.M. Queen Elizabeth, Douglas Fairbanks, Greta Garbo, Rex Harrison, Laurel and Hardy, Harpo Marx, David Niven, Aristotle Onassis, Gloria Swanson, Elizabeth Taylor, Mae West and Loretta Young.

Hundreds of films and TV shows have been shot on the *Queen Mary*, starting with a Petula Clark Special in 1969. Most of *The Poseidon Adventure* was shot here, and parts of *Farewell, My Lovely*; *From Here to Eternity*; *Harlem Nights*; *Titanic*; *Pearl Harbor*; and *Vanilla Sky*. She was used in many television series, including *Cannon*; *Charlie's Angels*; *Quincy, M.E.*; *CHiPs*; *Murder, She Wrote*; *MacGyver*; *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*; *Melrose Place;* and *Diagnosis Murder*.

Visiting the Queen

Getting Here

The *Queen Mary* is at the south end of the Long Beach Freeway (710). From the West Side (Beverly Hills, Westwood and Santa Monica), take the San Diego Freeway (405) south to 710, turn right, and follow the "Queen Mary" signs. From Hollywood, take the Hollywood Freeway (101) east to Downtown LA, turn right onto the Harbor Freeway (110) and head south to 405, then turn left until you reach 710, and turn right for the ship. It is 25 miles from downtown LA; figure a half-hour to 45 minutes from there, depending on traffic, and about 45 minutes from Hollywood or the West Side.

FILM GLOSSARY

Dolly – A wheeled platform on which to mount the camera to allow smooth camera movement. This is called a Dolly Shot; when the wheeled platform is mounted on a track it's called a Tracking Shot.

Touring the Ship

A tour will take you everywhere on board: through the immense engine room; around the broad teak decks; into the opulent first-class cabins and suites, the shops that glitter with art deco style, and the restaurants looking out onto the harbor. The tours are self-guided, and go behind-the-scenes. For dining there is the **Chelsea** seafood restaurant and **Sir Winston's** atop the fantail with continental cuisine and ocean views. Champagne Sunday brunch is served in the **Grand Salon** and live entertainment and dancing occur daily in the **Observation Bar**.

Staying On Board

For those looking for a wonderful place to stay in the Long Beach area, the ship has 365 original staterooms with rich wood paneling, art deco fixtures, original artwork and, of course, portholes. Rates are moderate. Actors working on film shoots in the nearby geodesic dome (see page 526) often stayed here.

In 1943 the Queen Mary *carried 15,740 troops, with a crew of 943, for the greatest number ever on a vessel: 16,683.*

Hours, Fees & Contact Information

The ship is open daily, 10am-6pm. General admission, which includes a self-guided tour, is $19 for adults; $15 for children ages three to 11; $17 for seniors and military personnel. A "First Class Passage" ticket adds a guided tour that visits more of the ship; adults pay $23; children, $19; seniors and military, $21.

For information about visiting or staying aboard the *Queen Mary*, call ☎ 800-437-2934 from outside California; 562-435-3511 or 562-432-6964 in state; or visit the ship's Web site, www.queenmary.com. You can also write to *Queen Mary*, 1126 Queen's Highway, Long Beach, CA 90802.

THE DOME

On the pier beside the *Queen Mary* is the world's largest free-standing geodesic dome. The structure looms over the land; it is tall enough to enclose a 12-story building and roomy enough to hold a football field, plus fans. It was built in the '60s to house the world's largest airplane, Howard Hughes' *Spruce Goose*.

The Spruce Goose *can now be seen in McMinnville, Oregon, where it was shipped by barge.*

Howard Hughes, who produced and directed motion pictures, was also a pilot and aircraft designer. When World War II began he proposed to build the largest plane ever, with a 320-foot wingspan, to carry troops. Metal was scarce so it was made of wood, hence the name *Spruce Goose*. His contract with the government stipulated he would not be paid unless the plane flew. He finally got it into the air and flew it across Long Beach Harbor, a few feet above the water. It flew just that once; after that it was put into storage and never used again.

When the *Queen Mary* came to Long Beach, The Dome was built beside it to house the *Spruce Goose* as an added attraction. But a few years ago the city sold the plane and it went to a museum in Oregon. The vast, empty space became the world's largest sound stage. Most of *Batman Forever* and *Batman and Robin* were shot here, along with *Virtuosity*, *Stargate*, *Jack Frost* and *A.I.: Artificial Intelligence*.

Films are no longer shot in The Dome. The space is so huge (135,000 square feet) that, although Carnival Cruise Line is renovating part of it to use as a terminal for its ships, the rest will probably end up as an area with seating for a very large audience. The Dome is not open to the public.

SS Lane Victory

For those who love ships, especially ships that have been in the movies, the SS *Lane Victory* is not to be missed. She is in San Pedro, docked at Berth 94, next to the big cruise ship berths. Whenever an old cargo ship is needed for a movie, the studios head here, since she is the only one left in the area. The ship has been used in countless movies, TV episodes and commercials, including *Death Wish*; *Moving Target*; *Naked Gun 2½*; *Cloud Nine*; *Amelia Earhart*; *Outbreak*; *The Relic*; *Titanic*; *JAG*; *Murder, She Wrote*; *Unsolved Mysteries*; *Quantum Leap*; *Ninja Kids*; and the final episode of *MacGyver*.

One of the few Victory ships still in existence, the *Lane Victory* was built in 1945 and served in World War II, the Korean "police action," and the Vietnam War. Weighing in at 10,750 tons and still painted battleship gray, she is open daily for tours of the wheel house, engine room, guns tubs, all of it. An entire between-decks cargo hold has been turned into one of the best merchant ship/naval museums we have seen. To get here, go south on the Harbor Freeway (110), take the exit for Highway 47/Vincent Thomas Bridge; exit before the bridge at the Harbor Boulevard off-ramp, and go straight ahead across Harbor Boulevard.

The ship is open for viewing daily, 9am-4pm; admission is $3 for adults, $1 for children six-15 (those five and under get in free). During July, August and September, the *Lane Victory* goes on a day-long cruise toward Catalina Island. It is an exciting channel crossing, especially for children, as the ship is "attacked" by Nazi war planes while the crew defends the ship with the 20-millimeter guns in the gun tubs. The cruise fare is $100 for adults, $60 for ages 15 and under; it includes breakfast and lunch aboard. Call ☎ 310-519-9545 for more information.

Santa Barbara

Woman to man: "Is he as cute as you are?"
Man: "Nobody is."
– Martha Vickers and Humphrey Bogart (Philip Marlowe), *The Big Sleep*

Santa Barbara, a pretty, genteel and wealthy little city, is an easy 90-mile drive northwest of Hollywood, along the coast. Like the rest of California, the Indians were here first, then the Spanish, the Mexicans and finally the gringos, who ended up owning everything, including tranquil havens along the coast like Santa Barbara.

Getting Here

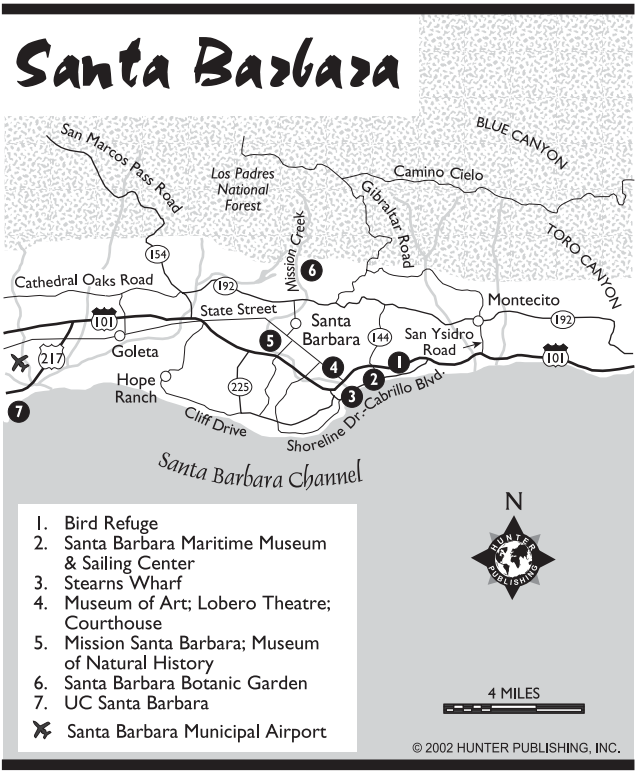
From Downtown LA, take the Hollywood Freeway (101) through Hollywood to the Ventura Freeway (still 101), which runs along the south side of the San Fernando Valley through Oxnard, a poor, agricultural town, and Ventura, a not-so-poor middle-class town. Very few people get off the freeway to see any more of either of these places. From Ventura, Highway One goes along the coast.

Half the strawberries in the country are grown in Oxnard.

From the airport or the beach communities, you can take the Pacific Coast Highway. Drive west to Santa Monica, or out Sunset Boulevard if you have lots of time, and up through Malibu. The coast highway joins 101 at the north end of Oxnard. You might go out one way and return the other.

★ TIP

Look for **Santa Barbara Hosts** on State Street, Thursday-Sunday, 10am-7pm, for tourist information and directions. They are the ones wearing safari hats and blue polo shirts. Very helpful.



Who Lives Here?

Residents of Santa Barbara sometimes refer to themselves as Santa Barbarians.

Santa Barbara folk are very protective of the privacy of the celebrities who have homes here. All we have been able to glean is that among current residents are Dennis Franz, Rob Lowe and Oprah, who has a big place (which she may never have visited since she built it, according to the story we heard).

On Location

One of the earliest West Coast studios was Flying A, which was located in Santa Barbara and shot over 1,200 silent

When The X-Files *stopped shooting in Vancouver, Canada, it shot an episode in Santa Barbara in 2001.*

movies here between 1912 to 1919. Of course, the films were only one and two reels long. In addition, because it is an easy drive up the coast from Hollywood, Santa Barbara has been a favorite out-of-town location almost from the beginning. Starting in 1910, even before Flying A Studio, *Winners of the West* was the first film made here. *The Perils of Pauline* was in 1914 and *The Ten Commandments* in 1923. W.C. Fields' *The Bank Dick* was done in 1940, the original *Batman* television series pilot in 1964, and parts of *The Graduate* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* in 1967. Since then there have been *Lipstick*; *Rich Man, Poor Man*; *The Postman Always Rings Twice*; *The Two Jakes*; *Of Mice and Men*; *Nixon; G.I. Jane*; and almost 70 other films. And, of course, Santa Barbara was seen in every episode of the soap opera, *Santa Barbara*.

Best Places to Eat

If you are here on a day-trip you'll want to have lunch in Santa Barbara. Fortunately, this small, attractive coastal city with lots of wealthy residents is one of the best towns you will find anywhere for excellent food.

The dining price scale can be found on page 42.

Just north of Santa Barbara, where the highway turns inland, is where wine country begins. This vintners' locale is little known outside of California, but some very nice vintages are produced here, and the influence of the wineries on the local restaurants is obvious.

Fine Dining

San Ysidro Ranch may be the only place in the world that could please both Groucho Marx and Richard Nixon.

THE STONEHOUSE RESTAURANT and
THE PLOW & ANGEL BISTRO
San Ysidro Ranch
900 San Ysidro Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
☎ 805-969-5046
www.sanysidroranch.com
American Regional Cuisine/Comfort Food
Moderate-Very Expensive

The Stonehouse Restaurant is one of the prime places to eat on the West Coast, so you might want to take advan-

tage of a drive up the coast to have lunch or dinner here before returning to Hollywood. The menu is based on fresh herbs, fruits, vegetables and edible flowers grown in their own organic garden. The kitchen receives so much acclaim because it accomplishes the most difficult feat of all – cooking simple dishes perfectly.

San Ysidro Ranch is one of only two Southern California members of Relais & Châteaux, a prestigious world-wide hotel organization.

The Plow & Angel Bistro is a more casual place for dinner only. There is an excellent bar menu, for nibbles with your drinks, as well as a "small plates" menu and a "big plates" menu, and a three-course fixed meal that changes every night and is popular with Santa Barbarans.

A PERSONAL NOTE

We stayed at San Ysidro Ranch some years ago, and when we arrived at our cottage we found our name hand-carved on a wooden plaque by the door, and matchbooks in the room printed with our name. Dinner was wonderful, there was a fireplace in the cottage, and the next morning we walked up to the swimming pool. We were sunning ourselves on lounges by the pool when a phone rang nearby. Since we were closest to it, one of us answered, and a moment later turned to the other half-dozen sunbathers and asked, "Is the countess here?" The countess got up and came over to take the phone. San Ysidro Ranch is that kind of place.

San Ysidro Ranch has been popular with both Hollywood people and politicians since Ronald Colman created the present facility. Originally it was a way-station for Franciscan monks in the late 1700s. The 1825 adobe ranch house is still in use. Its 500 acres in the foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains have been a retreat for celebrities like Fred Astaire, Lucille Ball, Jack Benny, Bing Crosby, Jean Harlow, Olivia de Havilland, Audrey Hepburn, Deborah Kerr, Groucho Marx, Somerset Maugham, Bertrand Russell and Gloria Swanson.

The creators of the soap Santa Barbara*, Jerry and Bridget Dobson, got their inspiration locally. They lived in Santa Barbara's wealthiest suburb, Montecito.*

John Huston and James Agee finished the script for *African Queen* in one of the cottages, Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier were married at the Ranch, John F. and

Jackie Kennedy honeymooned here. Political notables Joseph Kennedy (who was also a movie producer), Robert and Ethel Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey, Adlai Stevenson and Richard Nixon all stayed here. To get here from Highway 101, watch for San Ysidro Road on the right while you are still in the southern outskirts of Santa Barbara. Go uphill about five minutes, past Montecito Village to San Ysidro Lane; turn right, follow the lane to the ranch.

HARBOR RESTAURANT
210 Stearns Wharf
☎ 805-963-3311
Seafood and steaks
Moderate

The view here has been popular with visitors for a long, long time. There are tanks full of tropical fish, and windows all around with views of the mountains on one side and the harbor on the other. The window seats on the sunset side, where diners can see all the way out to the Santa Cruz Islands, are very desirable. The Harbor is open Monday-Friday, 11:30am-10:30pm; Saturday and Sunday, 8am-11pm. It is the first restaurant you will come to when you drive onto the pier, and there is valet parking.

BOUCHON SANTA BARBARA
9 West Victoria Street (at State Street)
☎ 805-730-1160
www.bouchon.net
California wine country cuisine
Expensive

bouchon means "wine cork" in French.

Despite what we said about lunch in Santa Barbara, bouchon (yes, with a small "b") is open only for dinner – but who knows, you may very well become entranced with Santa Barbara and linger. Owner Mitchell Sjerven describes his cuisine as wine country regional; he creates menus that interact well with wine. The cooking features products of the Central Coast: fresh produce, seafood, game and poultry; bouchon's wine list contains hundreds of Central California Coast and Santa Barbara County wines. There is a covered garden patio, and the main room showcases the open kitchen.

bouchon is open daily, from 5:30 to 9pm on weekdays and until 9:30pm Friday and Saturday. Street parking, and a city parking lot only three doors down.

★★ PALACE GRILL

8 East Cota Street (corner of State Street)
☎ 805-963-5000
www.palacegrill.com
Regional American: New Orleans-style cuisine
Moderate

This is considered one of Santa Barbara's finer eating joints, despite the moderate prices. This casual place, with no tablecloths on the wooden tables but art on the walls, is a favorite of the likes of Geena Davis, Michael Douglas, Michael Keaton and Kevin Costner, among others, when they drive up to Santa Barbara for the weekend, as lots of Hollywood folk do. And, of course, Dennis Franz, who lives in the area.

The food is not just cajun; owner Errol Williams makes sure it reflects all the ethnicities of New Orleans, so creole and Italian dishes are on the menu, too. Try the barbequed shrimp, or the redfish, available only when they can get it fresh. The menu reads as if you are in New Orleans, with house-smoked andouille sausage, Creole crawfish crab cakes and, for steak lovers, filet mignon stuffed with Louisiana crawfish tails and Creole spices.

The Palace Grill is open for lunch daily, 11:30am-3pm; and for dinner, Sunday-Thursday, 5:30-10pm, and Friday and Saturday until 11pm. Reservations are recommended. If you are on the Freeway (101), take the Garden Street exit; turn right and go 2½ blocks to Cota Street, then turn left and go another 2½ blocks to State. Parking is available on the street, and there are two city lots within a half-block.

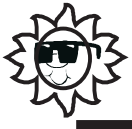
Palace Grill has a magician to entertain on Friday evenings and live music on weekends.

Casual Dining

★ **MONTECITO CAFE**
Montecito Inn
1295 Coast Village Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
☎ 805-969-7854, 800-843-2017, fax 805-969-0623
www.montecitoinn.com
Standard American with Italian accents
Inexpensive

Montecito Inn has a complete library of all of Charlie Chaplin's films.

Charlie Chaplin built the graceful, Mediterranean-style building in 1927 primarily as a romantic escape for the film colony. Among the first guests were Warner Baxter, Wallace Beery, Lon Chaney Sr., Marion Davies, Janet Gaynor, Carole Lombard, Conrad Nagel, Gilbert Roland and Norma Shearer. Lyricist Lorenz Hart was staying here with composer Richard Rodgers in 1936 when they wrote *There's a Small Hotel*. The "wishing well" in the lyrics is gone; there is now a fountain in its place. The café serves lunch and dinner.



Sunup to Sundown

On Land

MISSION SANTA BARBARA
2201 Laguna Street
☎ 895-682-4713

Santa Barbara's Old Spanish Days celebration is held in August.

The biggest attraction in Santa Barbara is the Mission. It sits up on a hilltop overlooking all of the city and the ocean, and is known as the Queen of the Missions. It has been knocked down a couple of times by earthquakes, but nicely restored. There is a self-guided tour and the usual gift shop. Open daily, 9am-5pm; admission is $3; children under 16 free.

THE RED TILE WALKING TOUR
1 Santa Barbara Street
☎ 805-965-3021

The Red Tile Walking Tour in downtown Santa Barbara is named that because of the red tiles on the roofs of all the old buildings to be seen on this 12-block, self-guided tour of the best of downtown. Pick up a map at the Visitors Information Center at the corner of Cabrillo Boulevard, down by the beach. The route includes the Historical Museum, the Museum of Art and Lobero Theatre, and ends at the Courthouse.

In the Santa Barbara News-Press *see Barney Brantingham's column of wise words about what is really happening locally.*

SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN
1212 Mission Canyon Road
☎ 805-682-4726

The Botanic Garden takes in a large 65 acres of Santa Barbara Canyon, with Mission Creek running through it. There are more than 1,000 species of rare and indigenous plants, with big sections devoted to the native plants of the area. It is a wonderful sight for lovers of nature, both wild and tamed. The gardens are open Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm; on weekends to 5pm. Admission is $3 for adults; $2 for seniors 60 and over and teens 13 to 17; and $1 for children ages five to 12.

THE LOBERO THEATRE
33 East Cañon Perdido Street
☎ 805-963-0761

A truly grand theater, the Lobero was built on the site of the 1870s Lobero Opera House and is now home to the Santa Barbara Grand Opera and the Lobero Stage Company. The elaborate Spanish-style architecture and interior is worth seeing.

There are tours available from time to time of the Lobero Theater. Phone ahead.

STEARNS WHARF
Foot of State Street

The wharf has been here since 1872 and is still a very popular place for residents and visitors alike. Stroll out to soak up the sea air and atmosphere. Harbor cruises depart from here, and there are shops and several seafood restaurants, the most famous of which is the Harbor Res-

Park on the wharf, or look for public parking lots on Cabrillo Boulevard.

taurant (see page 532). The Dolphin Fountain at the land end celebrates Santa Barbara's sister city, Puerto Vallarta, on the west coast of Mexico, where there is a much-photographed replica.

PEDAL & PADDLE OF SANTA BARBARA
848 Cathedral Vista Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 92110
☎ 805-687-2912
www.nvstar.com/pedpad

These bicycle tours are educational trips tailored to your interests by Judy Keim, focusing on wetlands, art, birds, or history. A three-hour minimum tour is $45 (see below for the paddle part).

SANTA BARBARA TROLLEY COMPANY
120 State Street
☎ 805-965-0353

The Santa Barbara Trolley Company's tour includes a 15-minute stop at Mission Santa Barbara.

Taking off from Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara Trolley Company offers a 90-minute narrated tour of the city. The 32-passenger bus runs five times a day, every hour-and-a-half, and you can get off at any of the 14 stops, explore that part of town and then get back on the next bus. Fare is $14 for adults; $8 for children 12 and younger. Trolleys run daily, 365 days a year, at 10 and 11:30am, 1, 2:30 and 4pm.

On & Under the Water

SUNSET KIDD
125 Harbor Way
☎ 805-962-8222
www.sunsetkidd.com

Sunset Kidd *has a full bar on board.*

Take a two-hour coastal cruise or a romantic sunset cruise on a 41-foot ketch. These are for people who really like the experience of being on a sailboat, to hear the breeze in the rigging and feel the water lapping along the hull. No narration, just a tranquil boat ride. The cost is $30 for either of the cruises. From February 15 to May 15 there is a 2½-hour whale-watching cruise, also $30. As soon as the boat gets near the whales the engine is turned off and you drift silently along with them. A trained naturalist is on board

to talk to you individually, with no loudspeaker narrations. These people are classy. Board the *Sunset Kidd* at Cabrillo Landing, by the Breakwater Restaurant.

PEDAL & PADDLE OF SANTA BARBARA
848 Cathedral Vista Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 92110
☎ 805-687-2912
www.nvstar.com/pedpad

Judy Keim does not rent kayaks, she takes you on a kayak tour along the coast, and will customize it for your interests and skill level. Along the way you will learn all about the coastline and the history around here, the birds you see, aquatic animals; it is an educational way to get out on the water and have fun. The cost is $45 for two-hour minimum.

★ TIP

Before going to sea you might want to check the weather hotline: ☎ 805-962-0782.

SANTA BARBARA MARITIME MUSEUM
113 Harbor Way
Waterfront Center
☎ 805-962-8404

A neat place for those with a nautical turn and families of all sorts. They have historic boats, all sorts of nautical gear such as a good collection of diving helmets. Lots of interactive stuff: you can catch marlin and sailfish, for instance. Films run all day in the theater, and kids can learn things like knot-tying. To get here, drive north on Cabrillo Boulevard a half-mile past State Street to Waterfront Center. Winter hours are Thursday-Monday, 11am-5pm; closed Tuesday and Wednesday. Phone for summer hours.

SANTA BARBARA SAILING CENTER
133 Harbor Way
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
☎ 805-962-2826, 800-350-9090
www.sbsail.com

Go for an afternoon sail or a champagne cruise, or on a 53-foot sailing vessel exploring the Channel Islands. For those who know how to sail, boats are available for rent by the hour or day; they also rent kayaks.

FILM GLOSSARY

Montage – An editing process that results in a sequence of several brief scenes in quick succession, usually creating a time-lapse effect.

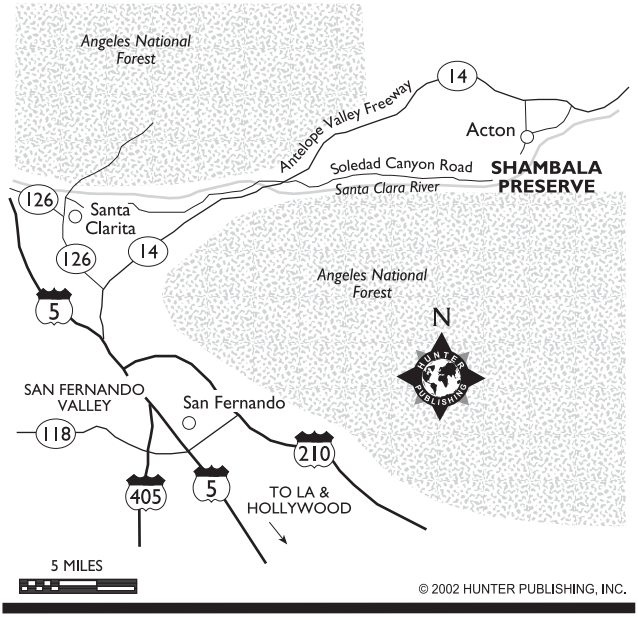
Shambala Preserve

Actress Tippi Hedren, who starred in Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* and *Marnie*, is a long-time wild-animal protector. In 1983 she created a 72-acre game park, located in the wild country about 40 minutes north of Hollywood, as a haven for abandoned, abused and unwanted exotic animals. The resident animals include cheetahs, leopards, lions, cougars, tigers and an African elephant.

Shambala, in Sanskrit, means "A meeting place of peace and harmony for all beings, animal and human."

The Santa Clara River wanders through the Shambala Preserve; the tall cottonwood trees are native, and 800 more trees have been planted to create a forest canopy. There are flowering plants and shrubs everywhere, a waterfall, ponds and a small lake, home to a white egret and a grey heron. Tippi Hedren's conservationist **Roar Foundation** does not breed, buy, sell or trade animals; it is dedicated solely to saving wild creatures. Most of the animals that end up here come from California's Fish & Wildlife Department, the Department of Agriculture and other legal authorities who have rescued animals from deplorable conditions. Some have come from individuals who bought the animals as cute little pets and didn't know what to do

Shambala Preserve



with them when they grew up to be wild beasts. The preserve's population includes 50 African lions, Royal Bengal and Siberian tigers, black and snow leopards, a bobcat, and a lynx.

Visiting the Preserve

Shambala is open one weekend a month to day visitors in groups of 30 or fewer, who are escorted on a special "safari" through the park. The animals are not in cages, they are free behind fences, with trees to climb, a body of water to play in and plenty of room. Tours take about three hours, including lunch (guests can buy snacks here or bring a picnic lunch). The cost is a $35 minimum donation; reservations in advance are a must, and no one under 18 is

allowed. Ms. Hedren often joins the guests for a chat before the safari starts out.

Rugged Soledad Canyon, the location of Shambala Preserve, was once the hideout of the legendary Latin-American bandit Tiburcio Vasquez.

The Preserve is also open occasionally for overnight guests. There is one designer tent, and no more than two guests at a time are allowed, so no one has to worry about overcrowding. Visitors arrive in the afternoon for a private safari (which a staff photographer documents), then enjoy cocktails and a catered dinner on the tent's veranda. Tippi joins her guests for after-dinner coffee and drinks and then escorts them on a midnight walk to view the nocturnal animals. After that it's time to turn in on a big feather bed, while the sounds of the big cats and the elephant echo in the darkness. Shower in the morning in a bamboo enclosure with a window (through which a tiger may be watching you!). The price for this unusual adventure is $2,500 per couple, all-inclusive. The cost is steep, but most of it is tax-deductible as a donation to Hedren's nonprofit foundation, which raises money to sustain the animals.

We suggest bringing a camera for either visit (but be advised that any photos you take must be for personal use only). While you are here, you might want to pick up a copy of the adventure-action film *Roar*, shot both in Kenya and here on the preserve, starring Tippi Hedren and her daughter, Melanie Griffith. Contact Shambala Preserve at 6867 Soledad Canyon Road, Acton, CA 93510, ☎ 661-268-0380, www.shambala.org. Directions will be provided when you make your reservations.

? Day-Trips A to Z

Police & Fire

Emergencies . . . . . ☎ 911
Harbor Patrol, emergency. . . . ☎ 911 or VHF channel 16
Avalon Harbor Patrol. . . . . ☎ 310-510-0535, or VHF Channels 12, 16 (24 hours)
LA County Sheriff, Avalon. . . . . ☎ 310-510-0174
Santa Barbara County Sheriff . . . . . ☎ 805-681-4100

Santa Barbara Police . . . . . ☎ 805-897-2300
US Coast Guard . . . . . ☎ 562-980-4445, 805-966-3093 (patrol boat) or VHF Channel 16
California Highway Patrol . . . . . ☎ 805-967-1234

Medical Services

St. Francis Medical Center, 601 East Micheltorena, Santa Barbara, ☎ 805-962-7661; for emergency department call 805-568-5712.

Avalon Hospital, 100 Salls Canyon Road, Catalina Island, ☎ 310-510-0700.

Newspapers

Santa Barbara News Press, ☎ 805-564-5200, www.sbcoast.com; published daily.

The Catalina Islander newspaper, ☎ 310-510-0500; published every Friday.

Taxis

Catalina Island Taxi Services . . . . . ☎ 310-510-0025
Island Rentals, Catalina. . . . . ☎ 310-510-1456
City Cab Co., Santa Barbara. . . . . ☎ 805-968-6868
Yellow Cab Co., Santa Barbara . . . . . ☎ 805-965-5111

Visitor Information

Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, PO Box 217, Avalon, CA 90704, ☎ 310-510-1520, www.catalina.com.

Santa Barbara Visitors Bureau, 1601 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, ☎ 800-676-1266, www.santabarbaraca.com. When you are in town, stop in at the Visitors Center, at the corner of Cabrillo Boulevard and Garden Street (three blocks east of State Street); the local phone number is ☎ 805-965-3021.

Oudoor Santa Barbara Visitors Center, Maritime Building, 113 Harbor Way, 4th floor, ☎ 805-962-8404 or 805-884-1475, for information about outdoor activities in the City of Santa Barbara, Channel Islands National Park and Sanctuary, and US Forest Service. To find the Maritime Building, from the south take Exit 101 at Hot Springs Road/Cabrillo Boulevard, turn left (west) on Cabrillo to Harbor Way.

The Movies & More...

Studio Tours

I don't want realism. I want magic!
– Vivien Leigh, *A Streetcar Named Desire*

For anyone at all interested in how pictures are made, a good studio tour is invaluable. Fortunately, several excellent ones are on tap. The surprising thing is how easy it is to take these tours, only because most people coming to Hollywood do not take advantage of this opportunity. But it is best to call as far ahead as you can to get the date and time you want.

All the studios tend to be busier, with more chance of seeing celebrities, during the TV production season from August to roughly December. Motion pictures shoot year-round; film sets are likely to be closed to tours, but more scenes are shot outside in the summer, and the actors tend to walk around the lot more in warm weather. But really it comes down to luck; who you see depends on what shows happen to be shooting and who walks over to the commissary when you are there.

LOS ANGELES CENTER STUDIOS
1201 West 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017
☎ 213-534-3000

This is a new studio in downtown Los Angeles; they have never done formal tours, but Pete Brosnan of the studio's Public Relations department tells us they are willing to do tours for small private groups. You should take advantage of this, especially if you are staying right downtown, because you will be among the first to see the inside workings of this very active studio. Since they are new in the business they just may let you see more actual shooting

than the more established studios do, but there are no guarantees. Phone the studio and ask for Pete Brosnan's office. They would prefer groups of five to 10, no more than that; if you are fewer than five, ask your hotel concierge if he can put a couple of additional people with you. But don't be surprised if your concierge has not heard of this studio yet.

FILM GLOSSARY

Two Shot – A camera shot of two people close together from the waist up.

★★ PARAMOUNT PICTURES

5555 Melrose Avenue
Hollywood
☎ 323-956-1777
www.paramount.com

No more than 15 people are permitted at a time on the two-hour stroll around the lot. You will get a historical overview and learn how movies are made as you visit the various departments at this working studio. You will also be taken to several sound stages; whether you see scenes being filmed depends what is in production at the time. After the tour you might want to go into the commissary, which is open from 7am-3pm. There is a cafeteria for a quick bite, or a dining room that serves French-American cuisine and is a nice place for lunch (reservations are required; ☎ 323-456-8399). Tours start at the main gate every half-hour from 9am-2pm. Call for reservations. The cost is $15; no one under 10 is allowed. Parking is available across Melrose at a public parking lot.

Paramount also hosts an annual **Children's Festival of the Arts** each August, which gives the whole family an opportunity to go visit the lot. The festival is sponsored by the Hollywood Arts Council and the Junior Arts Center and includes music and dance performances and arts workshops. For more information, call ☎ 323-871-ARTS or check online at www.hollywoodartscouncil.org.

★ **SONY STUDIOS**
10202 West Washington Boulevard
Culver City
☎ 323-520-TOUR

Sony owns the old MGM lot, so this is one of the real historic gems, and there's a lot to see. A two-hour walking tour visits the sound stages so you can see whatever sets are up at the time, but no actual shooting. You will see the paint shop, the wardrobe department... all the inner workings. Tours are given Monday-Friday, at 9:30 and 11am, noon, and 3pm; phone for a reservation. The cost is $20; children 12 years and older allowed. The studio takes up all the land from Washington Boulevard to Culver Boulevard, and Overland to Madison avenues. Go to Madison at the east end of the lot between Washington and Culver, and park underneath the Sony Pictures Plaza Building – it's the big sloping glass building across from the studio. Walk across Madison to the gate.

The Sony Studios Tour ends at the studio gift shop.

20TH CENTURY FOX
10201 West Pico Boulevard
Century City
☎ 310-369-1000

The studio previously had a very good tour that took only a handful of people at a time on an electric cart; it was canceled after September 11, 2001. At this writing they had not yet reinstated the tours, but there is always a chance they will eventually. Give 'em a call.

★ **UNIVERSAL STUDIOS**
100 Universal City Plaza
☎ 818-622-3801
www.universalstudios.com

Universal's tour is different than those at other studios in that it is combined with a theme park that rivals Disneyland in popularity. The tour is conducted on large, 50-passenger trams with TV screens that show celebrities in a film montage sharing their experiences on the lot; there is also a live narrator. The tour shows you where and how various pictures were shot. You can also see any show and take any of the rides in the theme park. The rides and attractions are, of course, based on Universal pictures: *Back*

to the Future, *The Mummy*, *Jurassic Park*, *E.T.*, etc. Admission is $43 for ages 10 and older; $33 for ages three to nine; $37 for seniors age 60 and older. The VIP Tour includes a customized trek around the studio, with no more than 15 visitors at a time on a smaller tram; guests see the inside of more sound stages and sets in greater comfort. Price is $125 per person. Parking is $7 for cars and motorcycles, $10 for RVs.

★ **WARNER BROS.**
4000 Warner Boulevard
Burbank
☎ 818-954-1744

While you're in the Warner Bros. prop department, look for the chandeliers from Rick's in Casablanca.

They call this the VIP Tour, and it is. They take no more than 12 people at a time, and you'll see whatever is happening, not displays and stunts put on just for the tourists. If a lot of films and TV episodes are being shot when you are here, you are that much more likely to see filming and stars. You are sure to see the New York Street set and some of the other permanent sets, and some sound studios, whether films are being shot there or not, plus the prop department, construction workshops and wherever there is activity going on.

Most of the tour is on a golf cart type of vehicle, but there is some walking so they advise wearing comfortable shoes. The two-hour tours start every half-hour from 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday. The cost is $32; no one under eight years of age is allowed. There is free parking by the Tour Office; enter by Gate 4 at Hollywood Way and Olive Avenue.

To get here from Hollywood, take the Hollywood Freeway (101) or Cahuenga Boulevard to Barham Boulevard, right past Warner Bros. Studio to Olive Avenue, which turns right. A block ahead is Gate 4, the "Hollywood Way Gate." If you are coming via the Ventura Freeway (134), phone for directions.

Going On Location

Look! There's the old man from Scene 24!

– Graham Chapman (King Arthur),
Monty Python and the Holy Grail

If you would like to see the process of filming, the easiest way is to watch as it occurs on locations around the area. Fortunately, much filming is done on the streets; when the shoot is at an interior location you'll find yourself looking at nothing but a lot of trucks parked outside. The Hollywood Film Office, which coordinates film permits for most of Hollywood and Los Angeles, no longer gives out filming information for security reasons, but the smaller cities in the LA area also have film permitting offices, and some will be happy to tell you where filming is going on in their area.

If you see a bunch of white trucks and trailers parked along the street, you are almost sure to catch a film crew on a location shoot. There may also be an open-sided commissary tent. To find the action, look around for cardboard signs tacked to telephone poles, hand-printed with something like "Charlie" or "Flash" and an arrow; this will often point the way to crew parking for a shoot. Sometimes you will see small film units shooting on the street; some producers making movies on the cheap avoid permit fees by shooting fast, ready to pack up the camera and leave in a hurry if necessary. You can watch them, and the process is the same as it would be for a big film costing a hundred million dollars; there are simply fewer people and less expensive equipment around. And no stars.

FILM GLOSSARY

Mise en scène – The scene captured by the camera, the composition, or the staging.

Film Office Contact Information

Beverly Hills Film Office, Bonita Miller, ☎ 310-285-2438. Beverly Hills is very protective of residents' privacy so they will not divulge filming locations in residential areas, but they have a weekly calendar of filming in commercial areas. Phone and they will fax it to you.

Culver City Film Permit Office, ☎ 310-253-6212. They can give you times, locations and name of the film shooting, but only 48 hours in advance of shooting, sometimes only 24 hours. Phone and ask for the officer in charge of film permits.

Sometimes the name attached to a picture at the time of production is a working title and will be changed before release.

Malibu Film Permit Office, ☎ 805-495-7521. About 1,000 days of filming per year is done in Malibu. Most of it is on the beaches, where it is easy to watch.

Santa Monica Public Works, Film Permits, ☎ 310-458-8737. The office requires three days' notice from the film studios who want to shoot in Santa Monica. Phone and they can tell you date, time, location of shooting and the name of a current film project. The office is open Monday-Thursday, 7:30am-5:30pm; Friday, 8am-5pm; closed every other Friday.

West Hollywood Film Permit Office, ☎ 323-848-6489, e-mail wehofilm@weho.org. They will be happy to tell you when and where all shoots are going on.

For the rest of LA County, contact the **Entertainment Industry Development Corp.**, 7083 Hollywood Blvd., 5th Floor, ☎ 323-957-1000, Los Angeles, www.eidc.com; open Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm. The EIDC, popularly known as the Film Permit Office, issues a "shoot sheet" every weekday morning with details about each film that is shooting on location. Since September 11, 2001 the sheet has been available only to those in the film industry, but there is talk of making it public again. We suggest you phone or check the Web site to find out the current status.

☛ DID YOU KNOW?

In Los Angeles, the police guarding locations are moonlighting. In some cities, such as Santa Monica, the officers are on regular duty, but pulling extra shifts. Either way, they have the same authority as always.

Be In A Movie

Audience Associates rounds up anywhere from 200 to 15,000 "spectators" for big mob scenes. These are not extras, who are provided with costumes and told what to do, but just live bodies, mostly people who want to go on the lot or on location for a day and watch a movie being shot. For instance, in the wrestling scene from *Man on the Moon*, which was filmed in the Olympic Auditorium in downtown LA, most of the people in the seats were out-of-town visitors. Other recent films using spectators were *Rat Race*, *Spiderman* and *Little Nicky*. There's no pay, but meals are provided and there is a place to sign up for Central Casting in case you would like to become a real card-carrying extra. Phone ☎ 323-653-4105, or www.beinamovie.com.

TV Show Tickets

You can see specific shows as they are put on film by writing ahead of time and requesting tickets, or you can pick them up in Hollywood. There is no charge for tickets. For popular shows, like *The Tonight Show*, writing ahead is a good idea. Age limits vary from one show to another; on *Wheel of Fortune* no one under eight is allowed; on *Jeopardy* no one under 10; for *The Tonight Show* it is 16; on most shows you must be 18; and for a few even 20. If this would be a problem for your family, ask ahead of time. The prime production season runs from August through March, and most television shows are on hiatus during the summer months. If you will be here during the off-season, check for pilots that may be filming. Once you have

tickets, get to the studio early. Many shows hand out more tickets than the studio can accommodate. No cameras, camera bags, recording devices, cell phones or backpacks are allowed into a taping. Other than that, enjoy!

FILM TRIVIA

The modern practice of shooting a variety or comedy show before an audience was common in early television, Carl Laemmle, who created Universal Pictures, charged the public 25¢ to watch the making of silent pictures from specially built bleachers back in 1915.

Contact the Studios

CBS TELEVISION CENTER
7800 Beverly Boulevard (at Fairfax)
Los Angeles, CA 90036
☎ 323-575-2458

Currently you can get tickets here for the long-running *The Price is Right.* The box office is open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.The show is taped Monday-Wednesday, three out of four weeks each month, but the schedule often changes. Write for tickets or pick up at the CBS ticket window, which opens at 9am. If you wish to be a contestant, arrive early in the morning with two forms of ID and verification of your Social Security number.

NBC
3000 West Alameda Avenue
Burbank, CA 91523
☎ 818-840-3537, recorded; 818-840-3538, ticket office

For *The Tonight Show*, which is what most people visiting NBC want tickets for, write early and enclose a SASE. You can get up to four tickets by mail. You may also pick up tickets in person, but only for that day; the ticket office opens at 8am, Monday-Friday. Only two tickets are given

out per person. The show is taped at 5pm and you should be in line by 4pm; actual admission is first-come, first-served. You must be 16 or older. You can also get tickets for other programs at NBC.

PARAMOUNT GUEST RELATIONS
Paramount Visitor Center
5555 Melrose Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90038
☎ 323-956-5575 (recorded)

Reservations can be made five days before a show is taped. Contact them the day of the show between 9am and noon to confirm your reservation, and arrive at the studio one hour prior to taping. The Paramount Visitors Center is open Monday-Friday, 9am-2pm.

FILM GLOSSARY

Gel – A piece of acetate placed in front of a studio light to change its color.

Be In The Audience

The shows listed below have been running for quite a while, and seem likely to be on the air for some time to come. They tape regularly throughout the year, often several times a week. Taping days are subject to change, so call ahead to confirm. Show tickets are also often handed out in front of Grauman's Chinese Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard and a few steps south of Windward Avenue on Ocean Front Walk in Venice. There are no reservations attached to these tickets, they are strictly seats-available, so get to the studio early.

◆ *I've Got A Secret* – Sunset-Gower Studios, minimum age 16. Tapes Tuesday-Thursday, three times a day, at 10:30am, 2:30pm and 6pm. Call ☎ 323-653-4105 for reservations.

◆ *Jeopardy* – Sony Studios, 10202 West Washington Boulevard, Culver City, CA 90232. Show tapes Tuesday and Wednesday, 1pm and 4pm. Tickets by mail or call ☎ 323-280-8856.

◆ *Politically Incorrect* – CBS Television Center, 7800 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036. Minimum age 18. Tapes Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30pm; arrive by 5pm. Call ☎ 323-852-2655 for tickets.

◆ *Wheel of Fortune* – Sony Studios, 10202 West Washington Boulevard. Minimum age eight. Show tapes Thursday-Friday, 2pm and 5pm. For tickets, write to: Wheel of Fortune Tickets, PO Box 3763, Hollywood, CA 90028. To be a contestant, call ☎ 323-520-5555. For show information, ☎ 800-482-9840.

There are a few companies in the business of getting warm bodies to fill all the seats in those taping studios. Each of these is involved with a number of TV shows, which change as old ones (and many new ones) are canceled and even newer ones come along. Call or look at their Web sites to see who they represent right now.

AUDIENCE ASSOCIATES
7471 Melrose Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90046
☎ 323-467-4697
www.freeTVtickets.com

These people have been in business a long time and always represent a bunch of shows. They have been handing out tickets to *Just Shoot Me*, *The Price is Right* and *Hollywood Squares* for years, as well as for *Wheel of Fortune* and *Jeopardy*; to be a contestant for these you only have to be in the audience. It is best to contact them in advance because the tickets you receive are for specific reserved seats, not for standby. For *The Tonight Show*, you can get tix either at NBC or from Audience Associates, and they often run out. You can also get tickets from Audience Associates at their Web site. If you order by phone you will need a fax number to receive confirmation. If you order by mail, include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

AUDIENCE UNLIMITED
100 Universal City Plaza
Building 4250
Universal City, CA 91608
☎ 818-753-3470
www.TVtickets.com

AU usually hands out tickets for around 30 shows at 10 different studios. Right now they represent shows at CBS Studio City, Disney, Sony, 20th Century Fox, Universal and Warner Bros. You can order tickets up to 30 days in advance; the sooner you order the better your chances of getting in on the date you prefer. Ask for maps and directions to all the shows. If you contact them by mail, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Awards Ceremonies

C'mon, Oscar, let's you and me get drunk!
– Bette Davis, grabbing her award for *The Star*

The **Academy Awards** ceremony is the big one, the one that it seems everyone in the world sees. Unfortunately, ordinary people, non-Academy members, cannot get in to see The Oscars in person. But there are some awards ceremonies that allow the public in, some with stars, tuxedos, fine dining and the whole nine yards. Top off your visit to Hollywood with something to remember; watch the limos roll up and the stars get out while the cameras flash.

February

★★ **PROFESSIONAL DANCERS SOCIETY**
☎ 310-285-1411

The annual Gypsy Awards luncheon is given for and by the great dancers of the film industry. The 2002 ceremony honored June Haver and Gregory Hines and featured a dance tribute to Busby Berkeley. The luncheon is usually held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. The public may attend; tickets are $125.

March

DIRECTORS GUILD OF AMERICA AWARDS
☎ 310-289-2000
www.dga.org

You must be a guest of a DGA member to attend their annual black-tie dinner and awards presentation, which is held at the Century Plaza Hotel in Century City.

FILM GLOSSARY

Directors Guild of America – The Directors' union, the DGA negotiates working conditions and minimum pay for directors and ADs (assistant directors).

★★ ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS & SCIENCES
Kodak Theatre
Hollywood & Highland
☎ 310-247-3020
www.oscars.org

The Academy Awards ceremonies are always held on a Sunday in late March.

The Oscars are being handed out in a new, permanent theater after a lifetime of moving from place to place. The Kodak Theatre, after several rows are taken out for camera movement, has only 3,300 seats for the audience. There is always a bigger demand within the industry than there are seats, so there are obviously none left over for the public. Bleachers are set up on Hollywood Boulevard to witness the stars' arrivals. There are fewer spaces available, and new security arrangements call for early applications for seats and background checks. If you are interested, check the Academy Web site.

★★ SCREEN ACTORS GUILD
☎ 323-549-6707
www.sagawards.org

Non-members of SAG may attend this black-tie dinner and ceremony as guests of members, but each member can

bring only one guest. The event is held at the Shrine Auditorium, south of downtown on Jefferson Boulevard close to USC. Of the three guild awards ceremonies (actors, directors and writers), this is the one with lots of stars in attendance. The general public can see them coming and going out front in all their finery.

WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA
7000 West 3rd Street
Los Angeles 90048
☎ 323-782-4569, fax 323-782-4801
www.wga.org

This black-tie event has been held in the International Ballroom at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills for many years, usually on the first weekend in March. Unlike the other guild awards ceremonies, non-members can attend on their own or as guests of members. The ticket price is $125, which includes dinner and the awards presentation. In the past the evening also included what was often one of the funniest floor shows in town, usually with a few stars sprinkled in among the cast members. The show has not been included in the last several years, but there is talk of reviving the tradition, so one can hope.

June

★★ **TONY AWARDS PARTY**
☎ 323-933-9266, ext. 54

This event is held in early June in conjunction with the presentation of the Tony Awards in New York; party attendees watch the awards presentation via a live television feed. In 2001 the party was held at Santa Monica's Museum of Flying. Lots of stars attend for cocktails, dinner and the live telecast, plus an auction and the presentation of the Julie Harris Lifetime Achievement Award. Public invited, $175.

August

★★ HOLLYWOOD MOVIE AWARDS
Hollywood Film Festival
433 North Camden Drive, Suite 600
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
☎ 310-288-1882
www.hollywoodawards.com

This black-tie dinner and awards presentation is held the last night of the Hollywood Film Festival, usually at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. There are lots of stars to rub shoulders with. Presentations include awards for Hollywood Movie, Actor and Actress of the Year, and Outstanding Achievements. This event is not televised. In 2001 the guests and presenters included Jacqueline Bisset, Sandra Bullock, Cameron Diaz, Harrison Ford, Sally Kellerman, Charlize Theron and director Robert Wise. The ticket price is $250 per person, and they sell out fast, so reserve early.

September

★★ ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES
5220 Lankershim Boulevard
North Hollywood, CA 91601
☎ 818-754-2800
www.emmys.org

The public can attend the Emmy award presentations, but tickets are expensive. The big night, always in mid-September and usually at the Shrine Auditorium downtown, is a two-part event: the awards ceremony, and the following dinner and Governor's Ball. Tickets to the award ceremony do *not* get you into the dinner, dancing and rubbing elbows that follows, which is only for members.

The awards presentation itself is a black-tie event, and tickets are generally $200, $300 and $400 for the third, second and first balconies respectively. Occasionally a few orchestra seats are available to the public. Contact the Academy; they will send you an invitation, which needs an

RSVP and payment. If you are not going to be inside, there are bleachers outside to watch the arriving celebs.

November

★★ **SOCIETY OF SINGERS**
8242 West 3rd Street, Suite 250
Los Angeles, CA 90048
☎ 323-651-1696
www.singers.org

The annual ELLA Award Dinner at the Beverly Hilton Hotel is a very show-biz affair. In 2001 the honoree was Julie Andrews, and the tab was $400 for dinner and a high-powered show that featured Dick Van Dyke, Michael Feinstein, Audra McDonald, Richard Crenna, Robert Goulet, James Garner, Robert Loggia, Carol Burnett, Andy Williams and a chorus of 50 voices. You do not have to know anyone to attend, just contact the Society to get current information. Past recipients of the award include Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee, Lena Horne, and Tony Bennett.

Film Festivals

First actor, to audience: "Well, that's all the time we have for our movie. We hope you found it entertaining, whimsical and yet relevant, with an underlying revisionist conceit that belied the film's emotional attachments to the subject matter."

Second actor: "I just hope you didn't think it sucked."

– Mike Myers and Dana Carvey, *Wayne's World*

Not so long ago, people around here used to say, "How come there are film festivals all over the world and none here in the world's cinema capital?" They certainly do not say that anymore. All of these festivals are open to the public, entirely or in part.

February

AMERICAN FILM MARKET
Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel
1700 Ocean Avenue
Santa Monica
☎ 310-446-1000
www.afma.com

This is a film festival in a different sense: it is an international movie distribution market, where thousands of people in the film industry flock together. Half of those attending are hoping to sell new films they have made, and the rest are there to buy distribution rights for various markets around the world. Rooms are not available at the hotel during the event, as they are turned into hundreds of offices where deals are made. The films are screened at theaters up and down Santa Monica's 3rd Street Promenade; some of the screenings are open to the public.

There are usually 75 to 100 films shown during the event. Because the Market is a clearinghouse for independently produced films from all over the world, films have not previously screened, so you never know quite what to expect. Phone or look on the Web site for the schedule and location of screenings. The best part is the cost – it's free.

★ TIP

A survey of those attending the American Film Market revealed that many deals are made over food, and the favorite places for deal-making while wining and dining were Il Fornaio, Ocean Avenue Seafood and Chinois on Main.

THE PAN AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL
Magic Johnson Theatres
3650 Martin Luther King Boulevard
☎ 213-896-8221
www.paff.org

This two-week-long event is dedicated to independent films from Africa and the African diaspora, and presents over 150 movies from more than 30 countries. The festival includes the Spoken Word Fest; several evenings of poetry, performance art and music; and a one-day Children's Fest. The Magic Johnson Theatres are in the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza; from downtown take the Santa Monica Freeway (I-10) or Wilshire Boulevard west to Crenshaw Boulevard and go south. Call for ticket information; the theater has plenty of parking.

March

★★ **DOCUFEST**
International Documentary Association
☎ 213-534-3600
www.documentary.org

You can be one of the few people in the country, or the world, to see every one of the documentary films nominated for the Academy Awards. And you can have a chance to meet and have weighty discussions with the filmmakers. The festival takes place the last Saturday before the Oscars are handed out, and generally runs 10am-midnight. Tickets are usually $5 and $7 per program; all-day passes run $15 and $20. Some years the event is held at the Directors Guild Theatre, but call or check the Web site for current information.

ROY ROGERS AND DALE EVANS WESTERN FILM FESTIVAL
Victorville, CA
☎ 760-240-3330

This two-day festival of Western films and TV shows from the 1940s and '50s commemorates the lives and careers of the shows' stars. Proceeds benefit the Happy Trails Children's Foundation. One-day passes run $6-$15; fam-

ily admission is $30. Two-day passes are $10-$20, with family admission of $45. Victorville is on the high desert about 60 miles northeast of Los Angeles, off I-15 (take I-10 east to Rancho Cucamonga, where you pick up I-15).

★★ INTERNATIONAL FAMILY FILM FESTIVAL

PO Box 801507
Santa Clarita, CA 91380-1507
☎ 661-257-3131
www.sciff.org

The week-long event features family movies, industry panels, workshops and readings of original screenplays. Films containing gratuitous violence, nudity or four-letter words are not included. One of the big events is the closing gala, at which well-known film industry people are honored. Screenings are usually at the Edwards Cinema at the Valencia Town Center, just off I-5. From LA, head north on the Hollywood, San Diego or Golden State freeway, any of which will connect to I-5.

May

ASIAN PACIFIC FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL

Visual Communications
120 Judge John Aiso Street, Basement Level
Los Angeles, CA 90012
☎ 213-680-4462, fax 213-687-4848
www.vconline.org

This week-long festival features a wide variety of films from countries in Asia and the Pacific, which are rarely seen in the US. There is also a series of seminars with prominent filmmakers held at the Directors Guild of America. Films are screened at various locations, including the DGA Theatre, the Village at Ed Gould Plaza in Hollywood, the Japanese-American National Museum and Japan America Theatre in Little Tokyo downtown. Phone for schedule and ticket information.

July

OUTFEST – LOS ANGELES
GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL
3470 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1022
Los Angeles, CA 90010
☎ 213-480-7088
www.outfest.org

This is the largest film festival in Southern California. The opening gala is a very glamorous and grand event; in 2001 it was held at the Orpheum on Broadway, downtown. Screenings are held at various theaters and venues on the west side of town. There are also screenings all year long on Wednesday nights (and occasionally on Fridays), at the Remberg Theatre at The Village, 1125 N. McCadden Place, Gould Plaza, in Hollywood. Shows usually begin at 7:30pm; tickets are $7 for adults; $6 for students and seniors. For ticket information, call ☎ 213-480-7090.

Guest of honor at Outfest's opening night gala in 2001 was (gasp!) Tammy Faye Bakker.

August

HOLLYWOOD FILM FESTIVAL
433 North Camden Drive, Suite 600
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
☎ 310-288-1882
www.hollywoodfestival.com

Lots of networking goes on at this week-long fest. Many of the panel discussions are held at the Hollywood Roosevelt; most films are screened at Paramount Pictures and at Raleigh Studio across Melrose Avenue.

WORLD ANIMATION CELEBRATION
30101 Agoura Court, Suite 110
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
☎ 818-575-9615
www.wacfest.com

Last year the festival received 800 entries from 65 countries and screened more than 100 animated commercials, public-service announcements, and short- and feature-length films. Participants usually stay at the Hollywood

The World Animation Celebration is the biggest animation festival in North America.

Roosevelt Hotel; most showings are at the Egyptian Theatre.

November

AFI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
American Film Institute
☎ 323-856-7707
www.afifest.com

This festival presents features, shorts and documentaries, some domestic, but concentrating on international works. A Latino Cinema Series is held at Hollywood Boulevard theaters as part of the festival. All screenings are open to the public; tickets for premiers and galas, such as the opening and closing screenings, usually cost $75-$100; for Filmmaker Tributes, $20; and for regular films, $8.50-$9. Call or check the Web site for schedule and information.

Organized Tours

There are tours for every taste, from the highlights of all of Los Angeles to the arcane bits of Hollywood history. You can get on a bus with 40 strangers to drive by the homes of stars, or have a personally guided tour for just two of you of clubs where only the merengue is danced. Here are some tours that have been around for quite a while and have it down pat. Reservations highly recommended.

CASABLANCA TOURS
Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel
7000 Hollywood Boulevard
Cabana 10
Hollywood, CA 90028
☎ 323-461-0156, 800-49TOUR1
www.casablancatours.com

Casablanca has several tours available, including Los Angeles City; movie stars' homes; the beaches; a nighttime tour; etc. Price for two-hour movie stars' homes tour is $29 for adults, $19 for children; for a longer, four-hour tour, $42/$25; a city tour is $44/$28. The bus will pick guests up

at hotels in Hollywood, Universal City and Studio City, otherwise tours start at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel on Hollywood Boulevard.

L.A. NIGHTHAWKS
PO Box 7642
Santa Monica, CA 90406
☎ 310-392-1500

Owner Charles Andrews, who used to write about music for the magazines, knows the clubs as they come and go. He gives personalized nightlife tours and tailors your tour to your own tastes; if you want to see intimate comedy, hear the best jazz and finish by dancing to a merengue beat, all in one night, that is just what you will get. Parties of up to eight go by limo, larger groups by luxury bus. Prices range from $195 to $350 per person, depending on the length of the tour and the number of passengers. All tours feature champagne in the stretch limo, roses for the ladies and all cover charges.

L.A. TOURS
3314 South La Cienega Blvd.
Los Angeles 90036
☎ 323-993-0093, 800-286-8752, fax 323-993-0090
www.la-tours.com

This company runs tours of the city from downtown to Beverly Hills; tours of movie stars' homes, beaches and shopping; and evening tours. Most start early or mid-morning; some have afternoon departure times. The two-hour tour of movie stars' homes is $29 for adults, $19 for children; an all day tour is $58/$46. Reservations are required; phone L.A. Tours or see your hotel concierge. Foreign language tours should be arranged well in advance.

STARLINE TOURS OF HOLLYWOOD
6541 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, CA 90028
☎ 323-463-8333, 800-959-3131
www.starlinetours.com

Starline has a narrated, one-hour trolley tour of Hollywood that leaves every hour from Grauman's Chinese

Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard ($16 for adults, $12 for children). They also offer numerous other tours, including one of movie stars' homes and a grand tour of downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood. Tours take from one hour to all day and range in cost from $16 up to $85.

THE NEXT STAGE
PO Box 1065
Pasadena, CA 91102
☎ 626-577-7880
e-mail nextstagetours@aol.com

This special company offers unusual tours, such as an all-night Insomniac Tour of Los Angeles, or an Ups and Downs Tour via escalators and elevators from downtown to the sea. Other tours include Culinary Arts; a yummy Chocolate Covered Los Angeles; Fountains of Los Angeles; Secret Gardens; Downtown Treasures; and Los Angeles Arts and Artists. Tours range from $25 to $75.

VIP TOURS
9830 Bellanca Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90045
☎ 310-641-8114
www.viptoursandcharters.com

VIP gives tours of Los Angeles, Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Venice, and movie stars' homes. Tours run from 4½ to 6½ hours; the one of stars' homes (4½ hours) is $46 for adults, $30 for children; others priced accordingly. Call for reservations.

FILM GLOSSARY

Match Cut – A cut between two shots with similar actions or compositions, such as between a man falling off a building to a leaf falling into the water.

Places of Special Interest

For Western Movie Lovers

The Western movie was not born in Hollywood. In fact, *The Great Train Robbery* was shot in New Jersey in 1903. A few years later, Bronco Billy Anderson, the first major Western star, began making films in Niles, a small town in Northern California. But in 1913 Cecil B. De Mille shot the first full-length Western, *The Squaw Man*, in Hollywood, and eventually the great majority of Westerns were filmed in Southern California. Some of the places most connected to Western movies are still here and can be visited by the public.

The film version of The Squaw Man *was based on a popular New York stage play of the same name.*

Autry Museum of Western Heritage. This museum has a collection covering the history of Western movies, plus much more about the real Old West; see pages 168 and 575.

Paramount Ranch. Located in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the ranch has been used for decades as a shooting location; it is reached from either Malibu or the San Fernando Valley. Paramount Pictures bought 2,400 acres of the old Rancho Las Virgenes for use as a "movie ranch" in 1927, and possibly thousands of films and TV episodes have been shot here since then, including *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*, which was filmed here from 1991 to 1998. Although the ranch has the typical Southern California mountain chaparral and live oaks, it became colonial Massachusetts for *The Maid of Salem* (Claudette Colbert), 13th-century China for *The Adventures of Marco Polo* (Frederic March), a South Seas island in *Ebb Tide* and, of course, hundreds of western locations. After Paramount sold the ranch it continued to be used as a movie location. In the early days of filmed TV, *The Cisco Kid* and *Dick Powell's Zane Grey Theatre* were shot here. The tradition continued even after the National Park Service took over in 1980.

Bicycles are permitted on trails at Paramount Ranch but must yield to hikers and horseback riders. Hikers yield to horseback riders.

To get here, take Ventura Freeway (101) west, out past Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road; turn left and go south about a quarter-mile to Cornell Road; go left and continue for less than two miles to the park entrance. The ranch is

open daily, sunrise to sunset, year-round; admission is free. There are several hiking trails throughout the ranch. For more information, contact the National Park Service Office in Agoura Hills; ☎ 805-370-2301.

Roy Rogers-Dale Evans Museum. The first thing to catch your eye will be the statue of Trigger outside. Inside is a wide-ranging look at the cowboy star's career and that of his wife and screen partner, Dale. 15650 Seneca Road, Victorville, CA 92392; ☎ 760-243-4547 (taped information), 760-243-4548 (a live person), www.royrogers.com. The museum is open daily, from 9am-5pm, but it's best to get there by 3 or 3:30pm to have time to see everything. Admission is $8 for adults; $7 for seniors 65+ and teens 13-16; and $5 for children six-12; under six free. Call for directions.

Santa Clarita Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival. This is an annual event, usually held on a weekend in late March or early April. Activities are held at various locales, including the William S. Hart Ranch and Gene Autry's old Melody Ranch Motion Picture Studio, which is normally closed to the public. Admission is $10 in advance; $15 at the gate. Call for directions, ☎ 661-286-4021, 800-305-0755, or www.santa-clarita.com/cp.

Will Rogers State Historic Park. The vaudeville star-humorist-movie star moved to his Pacific Palisades ranch in 1928. The house is filled with memorabilia of his wide-ranging careers and is maintained much as it was when he lived there. There are several walks and hiking trails on the ranch property. The park is open daily, sunrise to sunset; tours of the ranch house are given hourly on the half-hour, from 10:30am-4:30pm. $3 for parking. The facility is located at 1501 Will Rogers State Park Road, Pacific Palisades, ☎ 310-454-8212; see pages 317-319 for more information.

The bearskin rug in William S. Hart's ranchhouse living room was a gift from Will Rogers.

William S. Hart Park and Museum. Hart, who played authentic cowboys as opposed to the later singing cowboys, was a big star in the 1920s, on a par with Charlie Chaplin. His ranch in Newhall and its Spanish-Colonial ranch house, La Loma de los Vientos, were bequeathed to LA County for the use of the public free of charge. To see it is to visit the early days of Hollywood when Westerns were the most popular films. 24151 San Fernando Road, New-

hall, ☎ 661-259-0855 (park), 661-254-4584 (museum). The facility is open daily, sunrise to sunset; tours of the ranch house are given every 30 minutes, Wednesday-Friday, 10am-12:30pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11am-3:30pm; admission is free. Newhall is in the northwest corner of the San Fernando Valley off I-5; phone for directions.

Where Stars Are Buried

His mother has been dead and buried in Green Lawn Cemetery for the past ten years.
– Referring to Norman Bates' mommy, *Psycho*

Clark Gable and Carole Lombard are interred side by side in Forest Lawn-Glendale's private Great Mausoleum.

The cemeteries in most cities are places where the only living people you ever see – except the gardener – are an occasional relative or two wandering among the grave markers. In Hollywood it's different. Here, you are likely to run across tour groups following guides from headstone to headstone. Because, of course, buried here are stars!

If you visit any of these cemeteries you might run into **Hollywood Underground**, a group that meets once a month at a different cemetery to look for new stars' graves and revisit some older Hollywood legends. They can be contacted through several Web sites (see page 572).

★ **FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL PARK, GLENDALE**
712 South, Glendale Avenue
☎ 800-204-3131

This is the more famous of the Forest Lawn sites, the one Evelyn Waugh was referring to in his 1948 novella *The Loved One* satirizing Hollywood's commercialization of death. Those buried here include Gracie Allen, Theda Bara, Humphrey Bogart, Clara Bow, Francis X. Bushman, Jack Carson, Nat Cole, Russ Columbo (a singer who predated Bing Crosby; he had a great voice, and was wildly popular), Dorothy Dandridge, Sammy Davis Jr., Walt Disney, the Dolly Sisters, Marie Dressler, W.C. Fields, Larry Fine (one of the Three Stooges), Errol Flynn, Sid Grauman, Jean Harlow, Jean Hersholt, Alan Ladd, Jeanette MacDonald, Aimee Semple McPherson (the evangelist), Chico Marx, Gummo Marx, Tom Mix, Alexander Pantages (of the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood), Mary Pickford, David O. Selznick, Casey Stengel, Jimmy Stewart, Irving

Jack Paar referred to Forest Lawn, Glendale as "Disneyland for shut-ins."

Thalberg and Spencer Tracy. The park is open to visitors daily; in summer, hours are 8am-6pm; in winter, 8am-5pm.

A HAUNTING TIP

Clifton Webb is thought to haunt the Abbey of the Psalms at Hollywood Forever. Strange lights and sounds have been reported at night, including a glowing presence that walks one of the foyers. Webb is best remembered for the *Mr. Belvedere* films and for the 1944 film *Laura*.

★ FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL PARK HOLLYWOOD HILLS

6300 Forest Lawn Drive
☎ 800-204-3131

There was quite a furor when this cemetery was created because it was carved out of Griffith Park. After all, Colonel Griffith had deeded the land to the city to be used as a park for the people of Los Angeles and nothing else. Yet, 100 years later, Forest Lawn took over a couple of the park's hills and filled them with graves (Forest Lawn doesn't like to use the term "cemetery"; they are "Memorial Parks").

As we remember, a compliant Los Angeles City Council passed a law that once a body (any body) was interred somewhere, that ground could never be used for anything but a cemetery. Those trying to keep Griffith Park intact tried to block the new law, but the moment it went into effect at 12:01am, Forest Lawn buried a couple of unclaimed paupers on that land, and it has been a Memorial Park ever since. Now the paupers can rest easy, knowing they are in the company of quite a few stars. Among them are Lucille Ball, Clyde Beatty (the "Bring "em Back Alive" lion tamer), Scatman Crothers, Bette Davis, Dan Duryea, Bobby Fuller ('60s rocker, *I Fought the Law*, who was murdered), Rex Ingram ("De Lawd" in *The Green Pastures*), Buster Keaton, Ernie Kovacs, Stan Laurel, Charles Laughton, Liberace, Ozzie Nelson, Freddie Prinze and Jack Webb. Bonny Lee Bakley, the slain wife of actor Robert Blake, was buried here in 2001. Forest Lawn Hollywood

Hills, across the Los Angeles river from Burbank and Disney Studios, is open daily; in summer, the hours are 8am-6pm; in winter, 8am-5pm.

★ **HILLSIDE MEMORIAL PARK**
6001 West Centinela Avenue
Baldwin Hills
☎ 310-641-0707

Al Jolson (1886-1950) had a 40-year career that took him from the stage to recording to film. He was at one time the biggest star on Broadway and the most popular recording artist in America and, in 1927, he made film history in *The Jazz Singer*, the first full-length film with sound. Look for the **Al Jolson Memorial**. Visit Hillside Memorial Park's **Mausoleum**, the burial place of Jack Benny, Ben Blue, Eddie Cantor, Jeff Chandler, David Janssen, George Jessel and Dick Shawn. In the **Courts of the Book** are Selma Diamond (staff writer for Sid Caesar's *Show of Shows*, and actress, *Night Court*), Lorne Greene and Dinah Shore. And in the **Garden of Memories** are Sorrell Booke (*Dukes of Hazzard*); Mickey Cohen (bootlegger, gangster); Percy Faith (band leader); Arthur Freed (songwriter and Oscar-winning producer, who did *Singin' in the Rain*, *An American in Paris, Gigi)*; Moe Howard (The Three Stooges); and Harry Richman (1895-1972, vaudeville song and dance man, *Puttin' on the Ritz*).

Visit Hillside's **Mount of Olives** where you will see the graves of Vic Morrow (*Combat*); Jerry Rubin (Yippie cofounder, one of the Chicago Seven); and Dan Seymour (*Casablanca, Key Largo*). Also buried at Hillside Memorial Park are Isadore "Friz" Freleng, who won five Academy Awards for animation (with Warner Bros.), including *The Pink Panther*; Sam Lerner, who wrote musical scores for Hitchcock films; and Hal March of *The Burns and Allen Show* and *The $64,000 Question*.

Hillside is open 8am-5pm; closed Saturdays and Jewish holidays. The San Diego Freeway (405), the Marina Freeway (90), Sepulveda Boulevard and Centinela Boulevard all intersect at Fox Hills, and Hillside is just east of Sepulveda.

A FRIEND TO THE END...

When Adrian Scott (producer of *Crossfire* and a member of the Hollywood Ten) and Joan Scott (a screenwriter) were blacklisted, they decided to rent their house in the San Fernando Valley so they could move to England to work. Mickey Cohen showed up as a tenant. He was a perfect gentleman, and was impressed to meet the Scotts; he thought of them as fellow rebels being persecuted by the government. The Scotts eventually returned to Hollywood. Years later, when Adrian died, we went to the memorial service at the Unitarian Church on 6th Street. We met Mickey Cohen there, who showed up in a black car with his chauffeur and bodyguard: a friend to the end.

★ HOLLYWOOD FOREVER

6000 Santa Monica Boulevard
Hollywood
☎ 323-469-1181

Hollywood Forever encourages picnicking on the grounds with plenty of benches and shade trees.

If you see a reference to Hollywood Memorial Park, this is the place, and that book you are reading is old. This cemetery has had a close connection to the movies for a long time, since 1901; on the other side of the back wall of the grounds is Paramount Pictures. In fact, there are more dead movie stars here than any other place in the world.

There are no regularly scheduled tours, but if a staff member is available they will lead a tour of stars' graves, so it is worthwhile to ask. And there is something here that you will find nowhere else. Look for a slab of stone, called a Memorial Kiosk, with a screen set in it. A touch brings forth a video archive of biographies, which may include everything from simple photos to voices, pictures and music documenting the lives of some of those buried here.

Crypt No. 1205 in the Cathedral Mausoleum at Hollywood Forever contains the remains of Rudolph Valentino.

There are three kiosks on the grounds, as well as a small Forever Theatre where you can view screen bios. All of the information contained in the archives can be downloaded from www.forevernetwork.com.

Here you will find the burial places of Mel Blanc, Louis Calhern, Harry Cohn (fabled head of Columbia Studio), Marion Davies, Cecil B. De Mille, Nelson Eddy, Douglas Fairbanks Sr., Peter Finch, Victor Fleming (director of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Gone With the Wind*), Griffith J. Griffith (donor of Griffith Park), John Huston, Jesse Lasky, Peter Lorre, Jayne Mansfield, Adolph Menjou, Paul Muni, Tyrone Power, Edward G. Robinson, Bugsy Siegel (subject of *Bugsy)*, Carl Switzer ("Alfalfa," *Our Gang* comedies), Norma Talmadge, Rudolph Valentino, Clifton Webb and H.H. Wilcox (founder of Hollywood). The office has a map with locations of stars' graves for $5, and there is a directory, with all listed, for $10. Hollywood Forever is open daily, 8:30am-5pm.

Mel Blanc's stone is inscribed, "That's all, folks."

TIMES CHANGE

In 1952, Hattie McDaniel, who won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role as Mammy in *Gone With the Wind*, was not allowed to be buried at Hollywood Cemetery – African-Americans were not buried along with whites then. The new owners of the cemetery, now called Hollywood Forever, have tried to make up for that; they dedicated a memorial to the actress on the 47th anniversary of her funeral. The four-foot-tall memorial is by a lake near the graves of Marion Davies, Douglas Fairbanks and Tyrone Power.

The "whites only" policy affected Asians as well. Keye Luke, a well-known Chinese-American actor (*Charlie Chan*), was denied permission to bury his mother in Forest Lawn. Those policies would be unthinkable now.

★ **HOLY CROSS CEMETERY**
5835 West Slauson Avenue
Culver City
☎ 310-670-7697

At Holy Cross Cemetery you will find the graves of Charles Boyer, Bing Crosby, John Candy, Joan Davis, Jimmy Durante, Rita Hayworth, Spike Jones, Mario Lanza, Bela

Lugosi, Louella Parsons, Rosalind Russell, Sharon Tate and Lawrence Welk.

Holy Cross is open daily, 8am-5pm, and is near Hillside. The Marina Freeway (90) dead-ends on Slauson just east of the San Diego Freeway (405); to reach Holy Cross, go a few blocks east of there, and turn right onto Slauson; the cemetery is on the left.

HELPFUL WEB SITES

- **www.graveconcerns.com** is where you will find *The Original Map to the Stars' Bones* by Steve Orkin, member of Hollywood Underground.
- **www.beneathlosangeles.com** features photos of stars' memorials by Steve Goldstein, member of Hollywood Underground.
- **www.findagrave.com** – here you can locate graves by name, claim to fame, place, and other specifics.
- **www.hollywood-underground.com** – this site also has information about graves of celebrities.

★ **MOUNT SINAI MEMORIAL PARK**
5950 Forest Lawn Drive
☎ 323-469-6000

This is where you will find Irwin Allen (screenwriter/producer/director, *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*), Lee J. Cobb, Cass Elliott, Totie Fields and Phil Silvers, among others. Mount Sinai is next door to Forest Lawn Memorial Park Hollywood Hills; it is open Sunday-Friday, 8:30am-5pm.

★ **WESTWOOD VILLAGE MEMORIAL PARK**
1218 Glendon Avenue
Westwood
☎ 310-474-1579
www.seeing-stars.com/maps/piercebrosmap.shtml

Westwood is our favorite cemetery; it is small, beautiful, right in town so you do not have to drive far, and you are in such good company. Among those buried here are Eve Arden, Lew Ayres, Jim Backus, Richard Basehart, Fanny Brice, Les Brown, Sebastian Cabot, Sammy Cahn, Truman Capote, John Cassavetes, Richard Conte, Will and Ariel Durant, Brian Keith, Stan Kenton, Burt Lancaster, Oscar Levant, Dean Martin, Walter Matthau, Marilyn Monroe, Lloyd Nolan, Donna Reed, Buddy Rich, George C. Scott, Dorothy Stratten, Mel Torme, Harry Warren, Cornel Wilde, Natalie Wood and Darryl Zanuck. The cemetery is open daily, 8am-5pm. Glendon Avenue is the first street east of Westwood Boulevard; the cemetery is one block south of Wilshire.

☛ **DID YOU KNOW?**

Joe DiMaggio paid for a rose to be kept next to Marilyn Monroe's crypt "forever." But he discontinued it when he learned that fans were stealing his flowers. The money is now donated to charity.

★ **WOODLAWN CEMETERY**
CITY OF SANTA MONICA CEMETERY
1847 14th Street
Santa Monica
☎ 310-450-0781

Woodlawn has tall gothic headstones dating back to the 1800s, marking the graves of many of the city's founding fathers and mothers. It was originally the family graveyard of the Machados clan, who held the land grant to Rancho Boca de Santa Monica; there are over 50 members of that family here. Abbot Kinney, creator of Venice, and his family are here, as well as Leo Carrillo, Vernon Duke

(composer for films, including *April in Paris* and *I Can't Get Started*, and the musical *Cabin in the Sky*), William Haines (1920s silent film star) and E.C. Segar (cartoonist, creator of Popeye).

LIVING ON IN FILMS

Angeles Abbey Memorial Park in Compton has no movie stars resting there, but it may have been seen by more people than those that are heavily populated with celebrities. In 1923 the founder of the cemetery sent two architects to India; when they returned they built a miniature Taj Mahal in a Compton field as a mausoleum with room for 1,000 crypts.

Ever since then, film companies have been shooting here, the background standing in for locales in the Middle East or South Asia. *The Untouchables*, *JAG* and countless movies and television series set in Cairo, Kuwait or Calcutta have used Angeles Abbey.

Resources

Recommended Reading

For children, we recommend ***City of Angels: In and Around Los Angeles***, Julie Jaskol & Brian Lewis, illustrated by Elisa Kleven, Dutton Books, 1999. The slender hardcover book has a few good paragraphs of text alongside each big, colorful illustration. Kids will learn about Hollywood, Chinatown, Olvera Street, Santa Monica and Venice, in a format designed to make them eager to see all this and more.

Los Angeles A to Z: An Encyclopedia of the City and County, Leonard & Dale Pitt, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1997. They are not kidding about encylopedia; this is perhaps more than you will ever want to know about LA.

Los Angeles Survival Guide (How to relocate and find everything you need to survive in Los Angeles), Curt Northrup, Arkobaleno Press, LA, 1992. In case this visit to Hollywood has so disoriented someone that they decide to move here, this is the book for them. A bit dated, but still has lots of practical information.

Santa Monica Bay: Paradise by the Sea, Fred E. Basten, Hennessey & Ingals, 2001. This big coffee-table book, full of wonderful old photos, offers a pictorial history of Santa Monica, Venice, Marina del Rey, Ocean Park, Pacific Palisades, Topanga and Malibu, but it is overwhelmingly about Santa Monica and Ocean Park (a part of SM), with sections about Venice.

Stairway Walks in Los Angeles, Adah Bakalinsky and Larry Gordon, Wilderness Press, Berkeley, 1990. The authors (Gordon is an assistant editor at the *Los Angeles Times*) found 200 public stairways around town and concentrated on 18 of the most historic and interesting stair streets in the city's hillside neighborhoods. "A lot coincide with the early development of Hollywood. The stairways tended to lead down to mass-transit points. People were able to ride the Red Cars home and walk up the hills." This book offers fascinating views of old Hollywood hillside living.

Libraries & Archives

★ **MARGARET HERRICK LIBRARY**
ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE
ARTS & SCIENCES
333 South La Cienega Boulevard
☎ 310-247-3020

The Herrick Library contains books, clippings, posters and screenplays documenting the history of film (see page 271).

★ **AUTRY MUSEUM OF WESTERN HERITAGE RESEARCH CENTER**
4700 Western Heritage Way
Griffith Park
☎ 313-667-2000

This museum has books, photos, posters about the real and the film West; see pages 168 and 565 for details.

FRANCES HOWARD GOLDWYN HOLLYWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY
1623 North Ivar Avenue
Hollywood
☎ 323-856-8260

The Goldwyn Library has a large collection of books on movies and Hollywood; it is located a half-block south of Hollywood Boulevard, one block west of Vine Street. Open Monday-Thursday, 10am-8pm; Friday and Saturday, until 6pm; Sunday, 1-5pm.

SCHOOL OF CINEMA-TELEVISION LIBRARY
Doheny Memorial Library
University of Southern California (USC)
3550 Trousdale Parkway
☎ 213-740-2924

This library, with its collection of books, periodicals, stills and personal papers on the subject of film and television, is just south of downtown Los Angeles. You cannot park on campus, so find a spot along Jefferson or Hoover avenues and walk. There are signs to guide you around campus; find Tommy Trojan Square and the Bogart Auditorium, and the library is across the way.

Parking on side streets around UCLA is restricted almost exclusively to residents.

UCLA FILM & TELEVISION ARCHIVES
Research & Studies Center
Powell Library, Room 46
UCLA Campus, Westwood
☎ 310-206-5388
www.cinema.ucla.edu

These awesome archives contain 220,000 film and television programs and over 27 million feet of Hearst newsreel footage; all are available for viewing by those working on

research projects. See the Web site for film screenings open to the public. Archives are open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. As you enter the campus, pay the $6 parking fee and ask for the Powell Library.

JAMES R. WEBB MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Writers Guild of America
7000 West 3rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90048
☎ 323-782-4544
www.wga.org

The focus here is entirely on writing and writers for screen, television and radio. The general public is welcome to use the facilities, but materials can not be checked out. Open Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm. The WGA building is the large one on the corner of Fairfax Boulevard, kitty-corner from the Farmers' Market.

UCLA MUSIC LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
UCLA Campus
Westwood
☎ 310-825-4882
www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/music

The UCLA Special Collections includes books and scores from popular, theater, film and television music. We have found the staff here very helpful and friendly. Open Monday-Thursday, 8am-10pm; Friday, 8am-5pm; Saturday, 9am-5pm; and Sunday, 1-10pm. The phone is answered on weekdays only, 10am-4pm. From Westwood Village, go along the east side of the campus on Hilgard Avenue to Westholm; turn left into parking lot #2 ($6 to park). Ask for directions there.

CHARLES E. YOUNG RESEARCH LIBRARY
UCLA Library Dept. of Special Collections
Westwood
☎ 310-825-4988
www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/special/scweb/

Books, screenplays, and all sorts of printed material are in the Young Library's excellent collection, open Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm. The library is adjacent to the Sculp-

ture Garden and Bunche Hall; parking lot #5 off Hilgard Avenue is closest ($6). Ask at the lot for a map of the campus.

FILM GLOSSARY

Cyclorama – A painted or blown-up photographic background, usually curved and designed to blend in with the studio floor.

Script Registration

We know that a large percentage of the people arriving in Hollywood have a story idea for a screenplay or teleplay tucked away somewhere. Most people are afraid to share their ideas for fear they will be stolen. What writers in Hollywood do to protect themselves is to register their story ideas with the **Writers Guild of America** (WGA). Anyone can register a story idea, whether it is a screenplay, teleplay or a radio script, as long as it is on paper; once your story idea is registered the Guild will go to court for you, if necessary. WGA is located at 7000 West 3rd Street, Los Angeles 90048 (corner of 3rd and Fairfax, across from the Farmers' Market), ☎ 323-782-4540, fax 323-782-4803. You'll need to bring one copy on 8½x11-inch paper, with your legal name and Social Security number. The cost to register your work is $20 for non-members. The WGA office is open Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:30pm. Registration can also be done by mail.

Writers as Speakers

Writers Bloc presents screenwriters and international novelists, non-fiction writers and poets in a year-round series at the Writers Guild Theatre, 135 Doheny Drive, Beverly Hills. Admission to the event is usually $15 for non-WGA members. For information on the upcoming schedule call ☎ 310-335-0917, or check online at www.writersblocpresents.com.

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